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Circulars and Price-lists

sent by post are apt to return again to the sender, or to find their way, unopened, into the waste-paper basket. Manufacturers and wholesalers should avoid this sort of thing by entrusting their distribution to THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST. Our subscription-register is the surest way to buyers of all classes of goods connected with the drug and chemical trades. It is kept up to date by corrections almost daily; it represents the cream—nay, the total solids—of the trade of the British Empire and the best of foreign buyers. The Winter Issue of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, on January 28, 1905, is reserved for insets, and the Publisher will be glad to give inquirers printed particulars about the getting-up of insets, charges for distribution, etc. Those who decide soonest to have an inset in the Winter Issue will have the best chance of getting the pick of the positions.

Summary.

MR. ARNOLD BAISS has been elected President of the Drug Club (p. 949).

A FULLER REPORT of the Hamilton Pharmacy Act cases is given on p. 941.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY arrangements by some London houses are mentioned on p. 932.

APART from the dispensing problems dealt with on p. 964, some are discussed on p. 953.

THE EARLY-CLOSING REGULATIONS which have been adopted at Durban will be found on p. 968.

THE SHIP MARK for soap is the subject of a lawsuit, Oowana, Ltd., being the defendants (p. 940).

THE ANNUAL REPORTS of Messrs. Idris & Co., Ltd., and Camwal, Ltd., are given on page 944.

THE new calcium-carbide regulations apply to quantities above 5 lbs. They are printed on p. 933.

MR. T. E. BUTLER, of Leicester, one of the oldest pharmacists in England, died on Sunday (p. 957).

IT IS PROBABLE that the Pharmaceutical Society may not insist on Latin as a subject for the Preliminary examination (p. 938).

THE intrinsic value of the assistant qualification has been discussed by Irish assistants. They appear to think little of it (p. 951).

THE POISON SCHEDULE is being revised by the Pharmaceutical Council, and the President has provisionally submitted it to Whitehall (p. 938).

"THANKS TO THE PRESIDENT of the Pharmaceutical Society, the redoubtable Clause 7 . . . may now be regarded as dead." So says "Xrayser" (p. 945).

PROFESSOR A. V. PELL has given the St. Petersburg Pharmaceutical Society a curious account of the deplorable condition of English pharmacy (p. 948).

AN ORGANISATION COMMITTEE of five members has been appointed by the Pharmaceutical Council. Mr. R. Lord Gifford is not one of the five (p. 937).

THE Torquay and London Chemists' Associations have to be added to those who capitulate on the Company Clause of the Pharmacy Bill (p. 950 and p. 954).

OUR CANADIAN CORRESPONDENT, in reporting a meeting of the P.A.T.A. of Canada, gives some particulars on the present state of price-protection in the Dominion (p. 967).

THE KENSINGTON MAGISTRATES want to hear more evidence in regard to the cod-liver oil cases before them. They are not satisfied with the Government analyst's certificate (p. 943).

DR. FRIEDERICH HOFFMANN, who spent a great part of his life in the United States, where he did much to advance American pharmacy, died at Charlottenburg on November 3. An appreciation of his life and work, by Dr. Frederick B. Power, is printed on p. 935.

IN a High Court action, S. F. Goss, Ltd. v. Papier Poudré, Ltd., it was stated that the sales were nearly 7,351 $\frac{1}{2}$ last year, and the former company received 735 $\frac{1}{2}$ in commission. The plaintiffs asked to have commission also on "Lecarhesor," a kindred preparation, and this application was granted, while a counterclaim was dismissed (p. 946).

THE PHARMACEUTICAL EXPERTS selected by the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society (G.B.), subject to the approval of the Irish Council, consists of Messrs. F. C. J. Bird, H. G. Greenish, W. Kirkby, E. W. Lucas, John C. Umney, Edmund White, and Robert Wright (for England), D. B. Dott and G. F. Merson (for Scotland), and W. N. Allen and J. E. Brunker (for Ireland) (p. 938).

MR. W. S. GLYN-JONES has retired from the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society, and several speeches of regret were made at the Council-meeting this week (p. 936). We comment upon his work for the Society during the past six years, and note that his retirement is synchronous with the abandonment of Clause 7 of the Pharmacy Bill, which he was largely influential in creating (p. 946).

AT the last drug-auctions of the year rather more business than usual was done, probably owing to the fact that the next sales will not be held until January 19. Privately no important alterations have taken place. Copper sulphate is again dearer; turpentine and acetate of potash are likewise higher. Fusel oil, camphor, ammonia sulphate, and menthol are firmer. Clove oil, cochineal ginger, and cocoa-butter are lower (p. 959).

English News.

Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the Trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

Brevities.

The Derby Board of Guardians have accepted the tender of Messrs. Davies, Gibbins & Co. for the supply of drugs to the workhouse, at 122*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*

The Salford Gas Committee have accepted the tender of Messrs. Tennants & Co. for supplying about 1,700 tons of sulphuric acid (150° Tw.) at 39*s.* per ton.

The Public Health Committee of Chelsea Borough Council have made certain modifications in the schedule for the supply of carbolic disinfectants which enable firms at present debarred to submit tenders.

A disastrous fire at the Eagle Refinery, Pontefract, the liquorice factory of Mr. Robert Ewbank, occurred on December 6. The whole of the machinery and a large quantity of the stock were destroyed. The damage is estimated at 3,500*l.*

The action brought by Price's Patent Candle Co., Ltd., against Oowana, Ltd., is in respect to the fine poster which the latter have recently been using. It shows a yacht in full sail; and as the plaintiffs long ago registered a ship as a trade-mark for soap, this affords the basis of the action.

The Poplar Borough Council have accepted the offer of Spratt's Patents, Ltd., to contribute 400*l.* to the cost of the proposed new bridge (across the North London Railway from Fawe Street, Bromley, to Chittin Street) and to give a perpetual right of way over their land to the approach of such bridge.

From the annual report of the North Staffs Infirmary the following items of expenditure are culled: Drugs, chemicals, and disinfectants, 746*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.*; dressing-bandages, 309*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.*; instruments and appliances, 165*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.*; mineral waters, 35*l.* Under "Wages" appears "Dispensing, 240*l.*"

At Southwark Police Court on December 3, William Bowyer, carpenter, and James McNulty, druggist's assistant, were fined 10*s.* or seven days' each for being concerned together in stealing a bottle of emulsion from McNulty's employers, Messrs. Baiss Brothers & Stevenson, Ltd., wholesale chemists and druggists, Grange Road, Bermondsey.

At a meeting of the Fulham Guardians last week a recommendation by the Infirmary Visiting Committee was adopted to the effect that when the new contracts are considered Messrs. Clay, Paget & Co., modified-milk manufacturers, be asked to contract for the supply of humanised milk, "they being able to supply it cheaper than the druggists through whom the supply is at present obtained."

Christmas Holidays.

We subjoin the following notes for the convenience of the trade generally. Next week we shall mention what other firms are to do in Christmas week, if they inform us not later than Wednesday, December 14. Those who desire to make a second notification should do so in their advertisements in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST.

Baiss Brothers & Stevenson, Ltd., 4 Jewry Street, E.C., will close on Boxing Day and the day after.

Burroughs Wellcome & Co.'s offices, warehouses, etc., will be closed from Saturday afternoon, December 24, until Wednesday morning, December 28. From December 3 their London offices, warehouses, etc., are to be closed at one o'clock on Saturdays.

F. Newbery & Sons, Ltd., will close from Saturday afternoon (December 24) until Wednesday morning (December 28), and on Friday and Saturday, December 30 and 31, for stock-taking.

Wright, Layman & Emney, Ltd., will close their warehouse and counting-house for holiday and stocktaking all the last week of the year, except Wednesday, December 28.

Shipping Dangerous Goods.

The Board of Trade have published a handy booklet in which the various regulations as to the carriage of dangerous goods and explosives in ships are consolidated. The marking and packing of poisons sent by water is noted, for instance, and a recent order in regard to storing and marking

sheep-dips and similar preparations. The "instructions" are sold by Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, E.C., at 3*d.*

Royal Institution.

An attractive programme of lecture-arrangements at the Royal Institution for the session has just been issued. These include two lectures by Professor R. Meldola on "Synthetic Chemistry," three by Professor J. J. Thomson on "Electrical Properties of Radio-active Substances," and three by Lord Rayleigh on "Some Controverted Questions of Optics." The Friday evening discourses begin on January 20, when Sir James Dewar will lecture on "New Low-temperature Phenomena."

Industrial Alcohol Committee.

A meeting of the Committee appointed to inquire into the use of duty-free alcohol for industrial purposes was held in the Board-room, Somerset House, on Tuesday, December 6. The members present were Sir H. W. Primrose, K.C.B., C.S.I. (Chairman), the Hon. J. Scott-Montagu, M.P., Sir William Holland, M.P., Sir William Crookes, Dr. T. E. Thorpe, C.B., Mr. L. D. Nicholson, and Mr. T. Tyrer. The witnesses examined were Mr. E. A. Grimwade, of the firm of Messrs. Grimwade, Ridley & Co., 6 Trinity Square, E.C.; Dr. W. R. Ormandy, representing the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders; and Mr. T. Gardiner, representing the firm of Messrs. Abraham Lambley & Sons, Birmingham. The Committee met again on December 7, when Captain T. G. Tulloch, R.A., of the Chilworth Gunpowder Co., 54 Parliament Street, S.W., and Dr. O. Silberrad, Superintendent of the Chemical Research Laboratory, Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, were examined. The chemical and drug-trade witnesses appointed by the London Chamber of Commerce are to be examined next week.

Birmingham Notes.

"If things cannot be satisfactorily settled in the centre of the city, the Shop-hours Act cannot be of the slightest service to Birmingham" is what the Press representatives gathered from the influential traders in the city during an interview this week.

A well-known firm of chemists in the city who are accustomed to deal liberally with their assistants, both in time-off and wage, have issued orders that all half-holidays are to be suspended until the first week in January. As all are equally affected, and as they expect to be very busy, they have accepted the inevitable with good grace.

A table of Midland securities in Birmingham in December states that Messrs. Bird & Sons show a yield per cent., based upon the latest dividends and selling-prices, equal to 4*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.*; Messrs. Chance & Hunt, 4*l.* 1*s.* 3*d.*; Hill, Evans & Co., 4*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.*; Singleton & Cole, 5*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*; Southall Brothers & Barclay, 4*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.*; Wright, Bindley & Gill, 7*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.*

War and Commerce.

Mr. Arthur Diosy, founder of the Japan Society, delivered an interesting address on December 5, at the London Institution, on "The Probable Results of the Russo-Japanese Conflict as Affecting Commerce in the Far East." The real cause of the war, in the lecturer's opinion, was Russia's attempt to become overlord of China, and the inevitable result of this would have been the exclusion of all British goods so far as this object could be possibly effected. It is supposed by some that if Russia is to triumph, the United States, which has considerable trade interests in Manchuria, will throw in its lot with Great Britain. This does not by any means follow. Russia is already looking ahead, and is trying to negotiate a tariff "deal" with America, which may in the end leave this country in the lurch. If Japan is victorious, her victory will be all in favour of British commerce. In undertaking the task of the reorganisation of China, which Japan believes to be her mission, the country will have everything in her favour. Mr. Diosy does not believe in the existence, now or in the future, of the "Yellow peril." There is undoubtedly the danger of competition—a competition of such a nature and power as has not yet been in this world. But then competition is the soul of business. In order to obtain this business merchants will have to adopt different methods from those now used. They will have to recognise, perhaps for the first time, that commerce

is a science that will have to be undertaken on scientific lines. They should take a leaf out of the book of Germans in China, and several leaves out of the Japanese book. If Russia prove victorious, it will be disastrous for British commerce, and this will mean a great increase in the sale of German, Belgian, and Swiss products until such time as Russia can herself supply the articles. At the present time cheap and bad German perfume is displacing French in the East.

Sheffield Notes.

The weights and measures inspectors of the Corporation have been very active of late, and have secured a number of convictions, from which the names of pharmacists have been conspicuously absent. However, at the police court on Wednesday a long list of convictions included Messrs. Carter & Sons, manufacturing chemists, 30 Pond Hill, who were fined 35s. for twelve unjust weights, and Mr. George I. Forrest, chemist and druggist, of 221 St. Mary's Road, who was fined 10s. for an unjust weight.

At the meeting of the Board of Guardians last week, a comprehensive report made by a deputation (of which Mr. G. T. W. Newsholme was a member), with reference to the separation of the hospital from the other part of the workhouse, was under consideration. The deputation had visited practically all the Unions in the country, and as a result of their investigations recommended the complete severance of the hospital from the other part of the institution, and its administration as a separate establishment. The recommendations of the deputation were adopted by a narrow majority of one, but now a motion to rescind this is coming forward.

Analysts' Reports.

The only samples of drugs taken in the Isle of Wight last quarter were eight seidltz powders, all of which were genuine.

In Stepney during the past quarter three samples of camphorated oil, two of cod-liver oil, and one of sweet spirit of nitre were examined. One sample of camphorated oil was found to be 90 per cent. deficient in camphor, and the sweet nitre 70 per cent. deficient in nitrous ether. In the former case the vendor was cautioned; in the latter a summons was taken out, but was dismissed owing to an informality.

In Hackney during the same period six samples each of camphorated oil, Gregory's powder, and sweet spirit of nitre were examined. Five samples of sweet nitre were deficient in ethyl nitrite (50.3, 40, 33.7, 5.7, and 5.7 per cent. respectively). In the case of the 33.7 per cent. disclosure of sample not being of B.P. strength was made before the purchase was completed. In the cases of the 50.7 and the 40 per cent. proceedings were ordered, but were subsequently withdrawn.

Carbide-of-Calcium Regulations.

The Public Control Committee of the London County Council reported at Tuesday's meeting that an Order in Council had been issued dealing with the keeping of carbide of calcium. Hitherto, more than 5 lbs. of this substance could not be lawfully kept except in pursuance of a licence under the Petroleum Acts. The new order increases the quantity that may be kept without a licence to 28 lbs. The undermentioned are the conditions to be observed by persons keeping it without a licence:

(a) The carbide shall be kept only in a metal vessel or vessels hermetically closed at all times when the carbide is not actually being placed in or withdrawn from such vessel or vessels.

(b) The vessels containing carbide shall be kept in a dry and well-ventilated place.

(c) Due precautions shall be taken to prevent unauthorised persons from having access to the carbide.

(d) Notice shall be given of such keeping to the local authority, and free access shall be afforded to their duly authorised inspector to inspect the portion of the premises where the carbide is kept and the generator is fixed.

Where a generator is used on the premises—

(e) There shall be exhibited near the generator a certificate, signed by the maker or supplier of the generator, that the generator complies with the regulations as to acetylene-generators issued by the Acetylene Association.

(f) Full and detailed instructions as to the care and use of the generator shall be kept constantly posted up in such

place as to be conveniently referred to by the generator-attendant.

Conditions (c) and (f) are not to apply to lamps for vehicles or other portable lamps.

Where the quantity to be kept is limited to 5 lbs. in weight, in vessels containing 1 lb., it is not necessary to notify the local authority; and where it is desired to keep more than 28 lbs., or the above conditions cannot be complied with, a licence must be obtained from the Council.

Educating the Doctor.

At an inquest held at Fulham on December 1, on William C. Ford (50), a bricklayer, Dr. John Joseph Quirke, of 308 Lillie Road, who made a *post-mortem*, said from the appearances he found he was of opinion that the death was due to oxalic-acid poisoning. In the course of his evidence he said he had never seen a case of poisoning by oxalic acid before. Asked by the Coroner whether the crystals found on the floor of deceased's bedroom were those of oxalic acid, the doctor said he could not say, as he had never seen oxalic acid. The Coroner thereupon sent his officer to the nearest chemist's for a pennyworth of oxalic acid for the doctor to examine, and afterwards this sample, together with the crystals found in the room, was sent round to the jury for their inspection. Eventually they returned a verdict of suicide while mentally deranged.

The Doctor and Steedman.

An inquest was opened at Hammersmith on December 2 with reference to the death of the infant son of an engineer. The mother stated that on November 26 she took the child to Dr. Hains, and he gave her medicine for acute indigestion. On November 27, as she thought the child was teething, she bought two Steedman's powders from Mr. Thomas Strode, chemist, of 88 Askew Road, and gave him a third of one, according to the directions. The baby slept from 11 p.m. until 6 a.m., and appeared worse. A doctor was called in, but the child died the same afternoon. Mr. Strode, in his evidence, said he could not say if Steedman's powders contained a narcotic. Dr. William R. Hall Hains, of Ashchurch Terrace, stated that when he prescribed for the child on November 26 for indigestion there was nothing serious the matter. He saw it again on November 28 at 3 p.m., and it was in a state of collapse. It had sunken eyes and the pupils were contracted to pin-points. He had made a *post-mortem*, and found symptoms which made him of opinion that death was not due to a natural cause, but was accelerated by some narcotic poisoning. He thought there must have been some opium or narcotic in the powder. He did not know what Steedman's powders contained, but he was distinctly of opinion that there was not sufficient evidence of disease in the body of the child to account for the death, and that death was accelerated by a narcotic. The inquiry was adjourned for an analysis of the powders and the contents of the stomach and organs.

The Week's Poisonings

Five of the thirteen deaths from poisons during the week were accidental, two were murders, and the remainder suicides. Arthur Yorke, an oil and colour man, living at Harringay, poisoned his two children and himself with prussic acid. Four laudanum-deaths are reported. At Grimsby a child, named Pennell, five years old, was given laudanum in mistake for tincture of rhubarb; a farm-servant, named Blower, poisoned himself with laudanum at Burn, near Selby; Joseph Daniels, a Covent Garden porter, died from laudanum-poisoning at Lambeth; and a labourer, named Lindsey, died at Scredington from the effects of a dose of laudanum taken in mistake for Friars' balsam. Carbolic acid was taken by Ellen Gannon at Manchester, and by Victor Hartridge at Stafford. At the inquest on Hartridge the jury expressed the opinion that sales of carbolic acid and oxalic acid should be registered in the poisons-book. Charles Dean, a Whitworth mechanic, drank a fatal quantity of aconite liniment. A child, named Bowen, was poisoned at Liverpool by drinking a quantity of turpentine and paraffin from a bottle she obtained possession of. Another child (at Port St. Mary, Isle of Man) found a box of matches, sucked the heads off seventeen, and died. Emma Lefrance, the wife of a packing-case maker at Mile End, committed suicide by drinking spirit of salt.

Irish News.

Personal.

Mr. Emil Werner, Dublin, has been appointed to the new professorship of applied chemistry in Trinity College, Dublin.

English Tenders for Drugs.

The Local Government Board have, we are informed, sent round general invitations to English drug-houses to tender for the supply of medicines to Irish unions.

Tenders Invited.

The directors of the Royal City of Dublin Hospital invite tenders for drugs, surgical dressings (according to form), etc., for twelve months. Tenders to be sent in before December 31.

Statutory Notice.

Creditors of the late Sir Henry Cochrane, Bart., managing director of Thacker & Hoffe, Ltd., wholesale chemists, Dublin, are asked to send in their claims on or before December 16, after which date a distribution of assets will be made.

The Dublin Exhibition.

The arrangements for holding the International Exhibition in Dublin in 1906 are proceeding satisfactorily. Mr. James Shanks, J.P., mineral-water manufacturer, has general charge of the project. It is stated that a special section will be reserved for home and foreign chemicals.

The Dublin Horse Show.

The winter show of the Royal Dublin Society was opened on Tuesday last at Balls Bridge. A pleasing assortment of horse and cattle medicines was seen at the various stands devoted to agricultural pursuits. The exhibitors included representatives of the chemical and drug trades of the Kingdom.

The Third Trial.

Mr. Richard Jackson Moss, of Dublin, was one of the chief witnesses for the Crown at the Ulster Winter Assizes in Belfast last week in the case of the King v. Joseph Fee. Fee was charged with the murder of John Flanagan in Clones on April 15, 1903, and after three trials he was convicted and sentenced to death. He eased the body in quicklime and buried it in a manure-heap, where it was found eight months later. The soil was peaty, and the lime had preserved the body instead of destroying it. Mr. Moss proved to finding mammalian blood on prisoner's trousers and to finding pigs' bristles on the knife found with the corpse. Prisoner was a pig-killer.

The Empties Question.

Some difference has arisen between Messrs. Golden & Co., chemists, Birr, and the local Board of Guardians as to the payment for unreturned empties. When Messrs. Golden wrote demanding payment the Guardians appealed to the L.G.B. for advice, and the latter informed the Guardians that they had no power to sanction payment, as the account was due over two years. Messrs. Golden, in reply, wrote to the Board of Guardians:

Are we to understand from this that unless we have recourse to legal proceedings we will not obtain justice? As far back as March 23, 1902, and on several subsequent occasions, we applied for payment of this account, and at the desire of the Guardians we sent to all and several of the dispensaries within the Union, and packed any empties there at our own expense, giving credit for any received at the same time, although according to the terms of the contract we are bound to be paid for them if not returned within six months of the delivery of the medicine. If the Guardians decline to pay what they justly owe, we regret to have no other course open to us but to seek redress from the courts as a last recourse.

The Guardians sympathised with Messrs. Golden in their position, and decided to send a strong recommendation to the L.G.B. to sanction the payment of the account.

Scotch News.

The Chemist-photographer.

Mr. J. Cummings, chemist and druggist, Alloa, has been successful in securing a prize of £1 in a photographic competition initiated by Bovril, Ltd. There were over 2,500 competitors.

Poisonings.

A Govan milkman, named Stewart McKee, died in the Western Infirmary on November 30 from the effects of carbolic-acid poisoning.—William Stewart (87), residing at Teaths Farm, Kirkfieldbank, died on November 29 from accidental poisoning. A domestic servant taking a bottle from a shelf poured what she thought was porter into a glass, and deceased drank it. He then became very ill, and died a few hours afterwards. The liquor turned out to be a carbolic dressing for cattle.—At Redding, a mining village, a few miles to the south of Falkirk, on December 6, the wife of a miner named Thomson, gave her seven-months-old baby a dose of Condy's fluid for a sore throat. The infant almost immediately expired. The mother was in the course of the day certified insane and removed to Larbert Lunatic Asylum.

Edinburgh Pharmacy Athletic Club.

The thirteenth annual smoking-concert was held in the Imperial Hotel, Edinburgh, on December 5. Dr. George Coull, who occupied the chair, apologised for the absence, through illness, of Mr. W. A. Davies (of Messrs. Raimes, Clark & Co.), Hon. President of the Club, whose place Dr. Coull took. Among others present were Messrs. Peter Boa, W. L. Beaumont, John Bowman, and D. B. Dott. The Hon. Treasurer (Mr. R. McDougall) who organised the concert, had got together an exceptionally brilliant galaxy of talent and an excellent evening's enjoyment was the result. Among the contributors were Messrs. J. P. Gibb (ex-Secretary), G. H. C. Rowland, Andrew Hastie (late of the Moody Manners Opera Co.), W. Lawrence (comedian), T. Barr (ventriloquist), Knox (solo and violin), H. R. Cooney, Dobson (piano), Joseph Street (violin), William Street (cello), and J. V. Cassie (trombone). Mr. Taylor (representative of Messrs. Burroughs Wellcome & Co.) gave a recitation. The Chairman, in proposing "The Club," made mention of its long prosperity and congratulated the members on its present flourishing condition. Mr. D. S. Napier (Secretary) briefly replied.

French News.

(From our Paris Correspondent.)

"METALLIC FERMENTS" FOR PNEUMONIA.—At the meeting of the Académie de Médecine on Tuesday, December 6, Dr. Albert Robin reported his discovery of the fact that certain metals, such as gold and silver, very finely subdivided by "electrical dissolution in water," and employed in infinitesimal doses, exercise considerable effect on the vital phenomena. He says metal treated as he describes acquires the property of developing a force similar to that of a ferment; hence the term "metallic ferments." He uses them by hypodermic injection of from 5 to 10 c.c. of a solution containing from nine-hundredths to two-tenths of a milligram of gold, silver, platinum, etc. Thirteen cures were obtained in fourteen cases thus treated. Scientific circles, as well as the Paris Press, have accepted Dr. Robin's communication with moderation. Dr. Albert Robin's high position in the medical world is well known, and it is sometimes noted that a prescription written by him will set a fashion for a new drug or medicine.

NOTES AT NICE.—Surely few thoroughfares can boast of such a collection of important pharmacies within a few hundred yards as the Avenue de la Gare at Nice. During my recent visit there I noticed that, of the eight, four are handsome and extensive corner premises. A French pharmacist is a great believer in an eligible corner site. In one case I noticed the ground-floor angle was occupied by another shop ("Old England"), but the enterprising pharmacist was making amends by having a new and gigantic inscription running round the corner on the first-floor level. It ran thus: "Deutsche-Apotheke. The new British Medical Hall. Important to English and American Visitors. For Medicine and Reasonable Prices call at the Pharmacy B—." M. Scoffier has emerged from the little side street near the Opéra, and has opened new corner premises on the Place Masséna.

Dr. Friedrich Hoffmann.

An Appreciation.

IT is a sad duty for the writer of these lines to record the death of one of the veterans of scientific pharmacy, Dr. Friedrich Hoffmann, which occurred, as stated elsewhere in this issue, at his home in Charlettenburg on November 30. The realisation of the loss which has thus been sustained, and which will be deeply felt by a large circle of professional associates, becomes accentuated to one who for thirty years had known him in the more intimate relations of a true and kind friend.

Friedrich Hoffmann was born in Wriezen on the Oder on June 20, 1832. His early instruction was received from his

father, who was distinguished both as a theologian and philologist, and was at one time a councillor of the Consistory at Stettin. He then attended the Joachimsthal Gymnasium in Berlin, and in 1847 began his apprenticeship in pharmacy. From 1854 to 1855 he studied at the University of Berlin, where it was his privilege to receive instruction from such eminent teachers as Mitscherlich and Heinrich Rose in chemistry, Otto Berg and Alexander Braun in botany and pharmacognosy, Ehrenberg in microscopy, Dove and Magnus in physics, Jo-

hannes Müller in physiology, and Carl Ritter in comparative geography. But a little more than a year has passed since the writer had the opportunity of walking with Dr. Hoffmann through the grounds surrounding the old University buildings in Berlin, and many interesting and touching reminiscences were then recounted of the time, nearly half a century ago, when, as a young and enthusiastic student, Hoffmann spent there many happy days. Not less interesting were his elaborated notes on the lectures and laboratory-work of that period, in many cases illustrated with handsome pen-sketches, which had been carefully preserved through all the wanderings of the intervening years, and in which he evinced a justifiable pride. It was evident that even at that early age the young apothecary had shown exceptional talent, and that he had pursued his studies with something more than ordinary zeal and diligence.

Having passed his State examination in pharmacy with the highest honours, and with a special inclination towards the sciences of botany and forestry, Hoffmann applied himself for a time to these studies, but, after having taken his degree at the University of Jena, in 1859, circumstances rendered it necessary for him to change his plans and return to pharmacy. Thus, after some years devoted to this pursuit in his native country, he left Germany in 1862, and established himself in the city of New York. In the metropolis of the New World, which was destined to be his home for a period of thirty-four years, Dr. Hoffmann's sound scientific training and literary abilities soon found recognition and appreciation. During the first four years of his residence in the United States he was engaged in teaching and as an expert or adviser in connection with various chemical industries. For the next sixteen years he was engaged in the practice of pharmacy, although still finding time for a large amount of literary work. This found expression in several papers on the subjects of pharmaceutical education and legislation, and in a number of interesting biographical sketches, including those of some of his earlier teachers at the University of Berlin, which were published chiefly in the "Popular Science Monthly." He also issued, in 1872, a work entitled "A Manual of Chemical Analysis as applied to the Examination of Medicinal Chemicals"; of this a third edition, in which the

present writer collaborated, appeared in 1882. For two years, 1881-83, Hoffmann served as a chemical expert on the New York State Board of Health.

To the changes which time had effected in the practice of pharmacy, involving a departure from the conservative and strictly professional methods of the school in which he had been trained, Dr. Hoffmann could never become completely reconciled, and many of the duties which this pursuit entailed became to one of his temperament and culture increasingly onerous and un congenial. For this reason he was induced, in 1882, to dispose of his business and establish a new pharmaceutical periodical, which, under the title of the "Pharmaceutische Rundschau," he conducted with marked ability and success for a period of thirteen years, and, in a somewhat altered form, it still continues to be issued as the "Pharmaceutical Review." As the writer has stated on a previous occasion, when reviewing Dr. Hoffmann's service to pharmacy:

in the field of journalism he not only found a congenial occupation, but the resources of his mature and cultured mind, his broad scientific training, and his extended knowledge of practical affairs, together with his ability to form and express correct opinions regarding current problems and events, all served to impart to his writings a distinctive character and a literary value which will be appreciated and admired by all reflective students who peruse them for generations yet to come.

At the close of 1895 Dr. Hoffmann decided to discontinue his journalistic labours and seek rest and retirement in his native land; but it was contrary to his nature, and incompatible with a life of such intense activity, to remain for any length of time without some form of occupation. With the opportunities afforded him by the large libraries of the Continent, he soon became engaged in historical researches, and, in collaboration with Dr. Gildemeister, of Leipzig, he produced the very comprehensive work on the essential oils entitled "Die ätherischen Oele." This was issued in 1893, and may be regarded as a most worthy and crowning effort of his literary career.

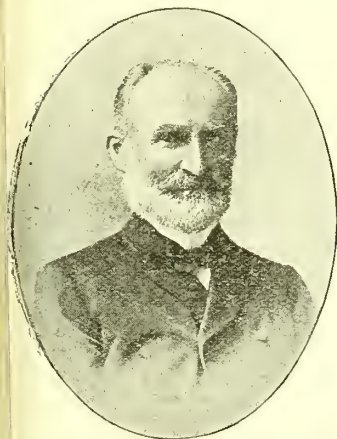
On the occasion of the Jubilee of the American Pharmaceutical Association, which was celebrated at Philadelphia in the summer of 1902, Dr. Hoffmann was invited to deliver an address, and, in response to this request, he crossed the Atlantic in order that he might once again meet the many friends who had conferred upon him this honour. Unfortunately, however, he was even then in such a feeble state of health as to render necessary his almost immediate return, thus compelling him to forego the long-anticipated pleasure of delivering his address in person, which was naturally a grievous disappointment both to himself and to his friends. The subject he had selected for his discourse was "A Retrospect of the Development of American Pharmacy and the American Pharmaceutical Association," which was published in the "Proceedings" of the Association for 1902, and occupies forty-five closely printed pages. It would be needless here to refer to the thoroughness of its exposition and the charm of its diction.

The varied and exceptional attainments of Dr. Hoffmann, and the service rendered by him in pursuit of the higher aims and ideals of pharmacy, have been widely recognised, and he was the recipient of many distinctions both in America and on the continent of Europe. Although in his sterner moods, and by his strong dislike of the superficial, as also by his determined and uncompromising views on many subjects, he was sometimes misunderstood or even harshly judged, yet those who were privileged to know him most intimately could not fail to have been impressed by his many noble qualities, by his generous nature, his kindness of heart, and by the encouragement and inspiration which he afforded those of younger years to whom by his sympathies he was attracted.

In the attempt which has been made to delineate some of the more prominent features of a life so eventful as that which has now closed, the writer is fully conscious of the fact that the representation he has given is a very inadequate one; but the work and influence of the man will endure, however ephemeral and incomplete may be the tribute which friendship is permitted to bestow.

And such is human life; so gliding on,
It glimmers like a meteor, and is gone.

F. B. POWER.



Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

COUNCIL-MEETING.

WEDNESDAY'S meeting was held in an atmosphere thick with fog, but the business nevertheless proceeded merrily, as during a two-hours' sitting a lot of work was done. One of the first announcements was that a 100*l.* legacy to the Benevolent Fund had been received from the executors of the late John Granger Gould, who was formerly in business in Oxford Street. The Benevolent Fund Committee dispensed casual grants amounting to 133*l.* In this connection Mr. Gibson suggested that authorised individuals might personally collect subscriptions to the Fund, as his experience is that often subscriptions are allowed to lapse from want of application. The resignation of Mr. W. S. Glyn-Jones from the Council was announced, and quite an oratorical ovation was accorded him by the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Mr. Carteighe, Dr. Symes, Mr. Atkins, and Mr. Cooper. Mr. Gifford's advocacy of efficiency of organisation has led to the appointment of a Committee of Organisation, composed of the President, Vice-President, Mr. Atkins, Mr. Carteighe, and Mr. Newsholme. The committee are to have a free hand to do what they like and go where they like in the interests of organisation. The Council have also, on the report of the Education Committee, communicated with the Board of Education expressing approval of the new scheme of Leaving certificates. This occasioned a desultory discussion on education and examinations. The Terquay chemists and the London Chemists' Associations are urging the Council to abandon Clause 7, and the Parliamentary Committee are to look into the matter and report. The Straits Settlements pharmacy ordinance came to the fore through a letter from a member calling attention to the fact that the title "chemist and druggist" is to be granted after a local examination.

THERE were present at the meeting on December 7 the President (Mr. R. A. Robinson), the Vice-President (Mr. J. R. Young), the Treasurer (Mr. Walter Hills), and Messrs. Atkins, Campkin, Carteighe, Cooper, Cross, Currie, Gibson, Gifford, Hagon, Harrington, Hills, Park, Southall, Symes, and Wootton.

The minutes of the previous meeting were taken as read, and confirmed, after which the PRESIDENT noted that Mr. Harrison had written to say he would be unable to be present.

The name of one chemist was restored to the Register of Chemists and Druggists.

FINANCIAL MATTERS.

Mr. HARRINGTON, as Chairman of the Finance Committee, presented the finance report, which showed the following balances:

| | £ | s. | d. |
|-------------------------------------|-------|----|----|
| General Fund account | 1,629 | 13 | 0 |
| Benevolent Fund—Current account ... | 1,068 | 14 | 7 |
| Donation account | 251 | 3 | 6 |
| Orphan account | 173 | 9 | 11 |

While the following items, amounting to 2,354*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.*, were submitted for payment:

| | £ | s. | d. |
|-----------------------------------|-----|----|----|
| On behalf of the "Journal" | 778 | 2 | 11 |
| Sundries | 17 | 16 | 8 |
| House | 86 | 2 | 7 |
| Law charges | 53 | 11 | 10 |
| Stationery, etc. | 18 | 19 | 3 |
| Library | 18 | 13 | 5 |
| Current expenses | 450 | 0 | 0 |
| Salaries, etc. | 824 | 11 | 8 |
| School | 106 | 11 | 11 |

Mr. Harrington, in commenting on the report, said the

2,000*l.* put out at interest with the bank had been called in, together with the interest, 26*l.* 6*s.* As regards the Benevolent Fund, 100*l.* had been received that day from the executors of the late John Granger Gould, formerly in business in Oxford Street (this had been alluded to at an earlier stage by the President), which, together with 250*l.*, part of the balance of the donation account, it was proposed to pay off a loan the Fund had had from the bank. This, it was explained, would save the Fund 14*l.* in interest. The balance of the Orphan Fund is to be invested in Consols.

The report was received and adopted.

BENEVOLENT FUND.

The report of the Benevolent Fund Committee was taken in committee, after which the Chairman,

Mr. ATKINS, in moving the adoption of the report, said that all the eight cases were, after consideration, granted relief. The Committee are carrying out the policy of getting the friends of the distressed persons to contribute, and the contributions are received in the Society's offices and paid out with the grants from the Benevolent Fund. Mr. Atkins then referred to the many letters of grateful thanks that are received from persons relieved by the Fund, especially mentioning a letter received from Mrs. Edwards, who, in resigning her annuity owing to better circumstances, testified to the great help the money had been to her and her children, adding, "I thank you for your kindness in the trying time through which I have passed." A letter had also been received from the London Orphan Asylum, in which it was stated that the lad Edwin Bennett, who is being supported from the Orphan Fund, "is making good progress, and his conduct is satisfactory." This led Mr. Atkins to reflect that a good education is more than money, in that the boy would be well equipped for the battle of life. He also expressed his surprise that the Orphan Fund is not more available than it is. The simple provision of a three-years' (not necessarily consecutive) subscription to the Benevolent Fund is all that is needed to make a subscriber's orphans fit subjects for the Fund. It is a simple form of insurance.

The report was adopted.

Mr. GIBSON said the Benevolent Fund might be much increased if someone was authorised in each district to collect subscriptions. It had come to his knowledge that some persons allow their subscriptions to lapse simply because the money is not called for. The local secretaries used to take it upon themselves to collect subscriptions, but he believed they were not now authorised to do so.

Mr. COOPER supported this suggestion, and said something should be done to induce young men to subscribe to the Fund. There is nothing like personal application for subscriptions, he added, giving as an instance a case where he has subscribed to a society for forty years simply because the subscription is called for.

The PRESIDENT said Mr. Gibson's suggestion will be considered by the committee.

Mr. CROSS hoped an impression would not get abroad that subscriptions are not being applied for. He had received two notices to pay his subscription.

The Treasurer was authorised by resolution to pay the annuitants the amount of their annuities at Christmas.

RESIGNATION OF MR. GLYN-JONES.

The PRESIDENT said the Council would hear with regret—some of them might have noticed the empty chair—that their colleague Mr. Glyn-Jones had handed in his resignation of his seat on the Council. The letter of resignation was as follows:

Endsleigh, Palmer's Green, N.,
7th December, 1904.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT.—It is with extreme reluctance that I have come to the conclusion to ask my colleagues to accept this my resignation of my office as a member of the Council.

I find that my new sphere of work makes it necessary that I should take this step, or I would not think of relinquishing an office to which I owe the honour of my having been associated with my colleagues in the administration of the affairs of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain for nearly six years, and may I be allowed to add?—to which I owe the great privilege of possessing the friendship of those with whom I have sat at the Council-table. This resignation denotes no diminution in the keen interest

I have taken in the affairs of the Society, for the service of which I hope to find further opportunities.

To yourself, your predecessors in office, and my other colleagues I offer my thanks for the kindness and consideration you have always shown me.

I am, dear Mr. President, Yours very truly,

W. S. GLYN-JONES.

The President said they all very much regretted that Mr. Glyn-Jones found it incumbent on him to resign. He had been on the Council for six years, and had led an extremely active and strenuous life, placing unlimited time, and he was afraid not unlimited strength, at the disposal of the Council. The Council regretted Mr. Glyn-Jones's resignation, but it was inevitable that he would find that, being a member of the Bar, he could not continue his work on the Council of the Society. He (the President) felt that Mr. Glyn-Jones had been led to a right conclusion, but at the same time regretted that the decision had come so soon. Mr. Glyn-Jones's opinion and advice were always of importance. He (the President) moved a resolution that the Council receive the resignation with regret, and desire to record their high opinion of the services rendered to the Society.

The VICE-PRESIDENT, in seconding, said in Mr. Glyn-Jones they had had an able colleague and admirable friend.

The TREASURER said that if any apology for speaking was required from him, it was that he (the speaker) was President when Mr. Glyn-Jones first came on the Council. The impression on his mind of Mr. Glyn-Jones was rather of a personal character, and he felt that in losing him they were parting with a gifted, an amiable, and a useful colleague.

Mr. CARTEIGHE regretted he was not able to say personally to Mr. Glyn-Jones what he intended saying then. It was extremely painful for an elderly man to have to part from a man of energy. Sometimes it was assumed that elderly men are not sympathetic but antagonistic to younger men. This is a mistake, as experience makes but little difference in the way of looking at affairs. He was delighted to have had as a colleague a man of Mr. Glyn-Jones's calibre. He (the speaker) liked to see ceaseless activity and unwearying advocacy of a cause. Even if there is an appearance of antagonism, anything is better than a dull dead level. (Hear, hear.) It was not for the Council to refer to Mr. Glyn-Jones's work for the trade outside his work on the Council, as that had been well expressed and not a bit overstated at a complimentary dinner recently. The amount of work that Mr. Glyn-Jones has crowded into the six years he had been on the Council was simply astounding. The amount of self-denial he must have exercised in performing his work for the trade and at the same time devoting time to his own interests is marvellous. It is a thing to be proud of that one who had passed the Society's examination had exercised so much energy, ability, and pluck. He (Mr. Glyn-Jones) was probably unaware that any one of the Council took any particular interest in his career, but every one of their colleagues on the Council is also their friend, and it is impossible to separate public work from private life. It was something to congratulate themselves upon that they had had among them a man of Mr. Glyn-Jones's unceasing exertion, power for initiation, and, what is rarer in a man, immense power of organisation. He (the speaker) had felt that there was hardly room for Mr. Glyn-Jones's abilities on the Council, and that he must necessarily gravitate to larger spheres. Difficulties with him were only things to overcome. It is like a difficult mountain to a mountaineer—it only gives him the desire to scale it. Mr. Glyn-Jones has scaled the highest mountain in this country in adopting the Bar as a profession. It is a profession that allows of the powers of the individual being exercised to the fullest extent, and rewards those who are capable better than any other. Mr. Glyn-Jones's experience on the Council, where his opinions were listened to and weighed well, had been a good preparation for some of those efforts he will make in the law courts. In his new sphere there are ample opportunities for his talents. The letter of resignation seemed to him (the speaker) to have in it a touch of sorrow at leaving those he knew for those he did not know, but in his (the speaker's) opinion it is Mr. Glyn-Jones's duty to take the step he has. When history comes to be written it will show the astonishing zeal Mr. Glyn-Jones had for the work of the Society and the trade. Personally he felt that those qualities of loyalty and

chivalry which Mr. Glyn-Jones possessed will make him a favourite at the Bar.

Dr. SYMES said he felt that in Mr. Glyn-Jones he had lost a friend and the Council an able member. His services had been invaluable, and if they had the least doubt as to his interests clashing with the work of the Council, these were at once set to rest. He (Mr. Glyn-Jones) brought to bear on the law cases discussed by the General Purposes Committee a good logic and good decision, and it required a good deal of consideration before one opposed him. Although their opinions might differ, Mr. Glyn-Jones was always extremely courteous in explaining his views.

Mr. COOPER said he had been connected with Mr. Glyn-Jones from the beginning of his public career, and it was a great delight to him to hear him spoken of in such terms. Mr. Glyn-Jones always took the keenest interest in all trade-matters, and was absolutely sincere in everything he touched.

Mr. ATKINS said it sometimes fell to his lot to have to congratulate a man on his advancement and at the same time to have profound regret at losing him. Mr. Glyn-Jones made his mark, and a very broad one it is. "I am absolutely convinced," added Mr. Atkins, "that there lies before him a very brilliant future. He will not join the ranks of unemployed barristers: he will at once find work." Continuing, Mr. Atkins said that as there are not more than two men intimately acquainted with the Pharmacy Acts and the Society's by-laws, Mr. Glyn-Jones goes forth with an immense advantage from his intimate knowledge of facts.

The resolution of regret was put, and carried unanimously.

LIBRARY, ETC., COMMITTEE.

The TREASURER, as Chairman, presented the report of the Library, Museum, School, and House Committee. The chief items of the report were the passing of Messrs. Parkinson's account for 34*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.*, and the appointment of Miss Hooper as a research worker in place of Mr. Cooper. In regard to the school, the "Chemical Laboratory Notes" are to be printed and sold at 2*s.* each to the school students. Mr. Wallis was recommended for an honorarium of 5*l.* for preparing the notes for the printer. Authority was also given for the erection of a special receptacle for the storage of inflammables in the yard of the Galen Place premises. Professor Greenish also had permission to have shelf-fittings in his room. The number of students is now sixty-three, and their conduct is satisfactory. The inadequate lighting of the histological laboratory was complained of by one of the examiners, and the committee desired to have powers to improve the room in this respect. The Treasurer added that that would be a good day to judge of the lighting of the histological laboratory. (Laughter.)

The "Journal" Committee, of which Mr. CARTEIGHE is Chairman, seem to have spent their time in examining samples of paper, and their report was adopted without discussion.

ORGANISATION.

The General Purposes Committee presented a report on the remit from last Council-meeting as to whether the organisation of the Society can be improved. After discussion, it was recommended that a special Committee of Organisation, consisting of the President, the Vice-President, and Messrs. Atkins, Carteighe, and Newsholme, be appointed and authorised to take steps to carry into effect any improvements. The report also stated that steps have been taken in reference to additions to the poison schedule of the Pharmacy Act, 1868.

The PRESIDENT said that Mr. Newsholme had explained to the committee that when he constructed the framework of organisation he contemplated that additions would be required. Mr. Gifford had pressed his views on organisation, with the result that the General Purposes Committee were asked to look into the matter. If the Council can do anything to improve the organisation of the Society, it should be done. Everybody was doing it—the War Office, for example. (Laughter.) The proposed Committee of Organisation should have considerable latitude, with power to send any of their members to any part of the country. The resources of the office—and they are considerable—would be at the service of the committee, and they could

send any officer to any part of the country, when necessary, to explain any matter that arose. The committee was one with serious purposes, but, at the same time, he did not want it to be thought that the Council wished to lose the valuable services of the divisional secretaries, but to aid them in every manner. Referring to the poison schedule, the President said he had seen the Privy Council in regard to the additions to the poison schedule. He had shown the Privy Council the list, and asked them if they were prepared to sanction the additions if the Council passed the necessary resolution. This course had been taken at the suggestion of the Privy Council.

Mr. NEWSHOLME said his thanks were due to Mr. Gifford for having kept the question of organisation alive, although he (the speaker) did not agree to the suggestion of the appointment of an organising secretary. He (Mr. News-holme) had in his mind certain ideas on the subject which he would not place before the Council, as he wished the committee to have a free hand in the matter. The committee, with further knowledge, might devise a better system than the one he had in his mind. The question of divisional secretaries was an important one, as, although many of them put much good work in for the Society, there are some who do not take that amount of interest that they might in the work.

Mr. GIFFORD thanked the committee for the careful consideration they had given to the question of organisation. He had not seen eye to eye with the Council in this matter, but he left it to the greater wisdom of the committee in preference to his perhaps too absolute opinion. The Committee of Organisation is one that has the power and possibility of great good. He should be prepared at the proper time to render the proper measure of admiration for their work, but he warned them that his price was somewhat high; it was nothing less than complete efficiency.

The report was adopted.

THE PHARMACOPOEIA EXPERTS.

The committee appointed to select nominees for the Committee of Reference in Pharmacy for the Pharmacopoeia Committee of the General Medical Council recommended the following:

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| W. N. Allen, Dublin. | E. W. Lucas, London. |
| F. C. J. Bird, London. | G. F. Merson, Kilmarnock. |
| J. E. Brunker, Dublin. | E. White, London. |
| D. B. Dott, Edinburgh. | R. Wright, Buxton. |
| H. G. Greenish, London. | J. C. Umney, London. |
| W. Kirkby, Manchester. | |

The PRESIDENT said the Council were much indebted to the Treasurer for his work in this matter, and he (the speaker) hoped Mr. Hills would feel that a good selection had been made. The Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland, with whom they desired to work—and, indeed, had always worked—in a most friendly and amiable way, would, he had every reason to believe, nominate the same persons later in the day.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

The report of this committee was next brought forward. It dealt with the suggestion from the Board of Education in regard to the establishment of a system of school Leaving certificates. The committee reported that, after discussion and interviews with Mr. Saul and Mr. Hodgson (of the College of Preceptors), they agreed that the principles upon which the certificates are to be granted are sound, and should meet with the approval of the Council. As regards the desirability of insisting on the inclusion of Latin in the syllabus and representation on the Board of Education, it was not considered advisable to raise these points at the present juncture.

The VICE-PRESIDENT recapitulated the steps that led to the question being considered, and said in his opinion the certificates are a step in the right direction. The method is somewhat in the nature of the Scotch Leaving certificates, but has in addition some advantages. The test would still be the number of marks obtained by a pupil, but the question would be arrived at by consultation of the examiners with the teachers who had to do with the training of the pupils. The questions would be given, moreover, with a full knowledge of the environment of the students and the district. The principle embodies the elements of curriculum, with which some of the Council are in sympathy. The com-

mittee give their unqualified support to the scheme as it is felt that in view of the fact that the Council are about to obtain greater elasticity in the by-laws dealing with preliminary education, they cannot insist upon a too rigid standard. The Society, moreover, having given up their own Preliminary examination on the ground that they are not experts in preliminary education, cannot logically press their views on the Board of Education.

A motion that a letter be written to the Board stating that the scheme "meets with the approval of the Council" was therefore proposed, and this was seconded by Mr. Cross.

Mr. HAGON hoped the scheme would not act in the direction of preventing the self-educated from entering the trade.

The VICE-PRESIDENT: The scheme does not interfere with any existing body.

Mr. WOOTTON said he did not quite gather what are the schools that will come within the scope of the certificates. What will be the lowest school that would be able to grant the certificates?

The VICE-PRESIDENT: That is a question for the Board of Education to settle, but only secondary schools will be recognised.

Mr. WOOTTON: Will this include private schools?

The VICE-PRESIDENT: There is provision for that in the scheme.

Mr. WOOTTON: The scheme is a valuable improvement on the system of examination. School examinations will be the test instead of an examination that has to be especially prepared for.

Dr. SYMES said that the Society publish a list of examinations that are accepted as tests of preliminary knowledge, but this does not include the Matriculation examination of the Liverpool University. In other respects, he had been informed, the list is incorrect. Are the Society going to publish an incorrect list?

The PRESIDENT: If by incorrect you mean out-of-date, I should like to say the list will be corrected in the next edition of the Calendar, but a resolution of Council would be needed before a new list could be published. The President went on to refer to the Leaving certificate scheme, which, he said, is a good thing as it will tend to do away with the multiplicity of entrance examinations. It does not do away with any existing examination, but, at the same time, it is hoped that the syllabus will be generally approved and perhaps adopted by other bodies.

Mr. CAMPKIN, referring to the University of Cambridge being almost in the throes of a revolution as to the question of omitting Greek from the Entrance examination, said it would be curious if the Pharmaceutical Society were to be consenting parties to the emission of Latin from the preliminary requirements. The Society, as an examining body, ought not to relinquish Latin without further discussion. Those who knew what a disadvantage it was to a young man to have to work up Latin after his school-days knew what he meant. Languages cannot be thoroughly learnt if taken up after schooldays.

The PRESIDENT: We are only assenting to a principle and not to the omission of Latin.

Mr. CARTEIGHE said the matter had been discussed by the committee at their first meeting. It was not proposed to abolish Latin or accept anything. It was for the Board of Education to produce their syllabus, as until the groups of subjects are submitted the Council can only say they accept the principle. This is based on training, industry, and on allowing teachers to have a voice in the examinations. As to the question of dispensing with Latin in the Pharmaceutical Preliminary examinations, as he got older he saw more clearly that what was wanted was a good general education, and anything that seemed to ensure that had his support. There is not now the imperative need for Latin that there formerly was when pharmacopœias were in Latin. There is now no Latin in prescriptions. If University Matriculation examinations can dispense with Latin, it shows that in the opinion of experts Latin is not necessary for ensuring a good general education. The Society are bound by statute to examine in Latin for the Minor, but the knowledge required could be obtained in six months. (The VICE-PRESIDENT: Six weeks.) Continuing, Mr. Carteighe said when the time

comes the committee will probably ask the Council to take a broad view of the matter in regard to not insisting on the inclusion of Latin.

Mr. WOOLTON: Does the resolution commit us to nothing?

The PRESIDENT, reading the resolution, emphasised the words "approves of the principle of the proposed certificates."

Mr. WOOLTON: Then we are committed to nothing?

Mr. CARTEIGHE: No.

EXAMINATION SUPERINTENDENTS.

The following appointments of superintendents and deputy-superintendents of written examinations were made:

London—C. B. Allen; Harry Moon.
Edinburgh—J. B. Stephenson; C. F. Henry.
Manchester—Harry Kemp; C. Swinn.

DIVISIONAL SECRETARIES.

Mr. CAMPKIN proposed that the following divisional secretaries be appointed:

Surrey (Wimbledon)—F. T. Bowen.
Nottingham (W.)—William Gill.
Cambridgeshire (Chesterton)—H. F. Cooke.

He added that Mr. Cooke was a member of the County Council and the District Council, and an active man.

This was carried unanimously.

The name of Mr. Atkins was added to the Parliamentary Committee.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Sir Joseph Swan wrote thanking the Council for their congratulations on his securing the honour of knighthood.

The Cambridge Pharmaceutical Association suggested that systematic visits of members of Council be organised. This was referred to the new Committee of Organisation.

The Torquay Chemists' Association wrote asking that provision enabling the Society to make inquiries at the shops of limited companies and for university graduates be included in the Pharmacy Bill. This Association also suggested that Clause 7 be deleted, as it stood no chance of passing and would be worthless to chemists even if it succeeded in getting through Parliament.

The London Chemists' Association also sent a resolution suggesting the reconstruction of Clause 7.

The Parliamentary Committee are to take these last two letters in hand.

THE TITLE IN THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

A long letter was received from a member living in Singapore in reference to the title of "chemist and druggist" in the new Straits Settlements Morphine Ordinance [see *C. & D.*, October 25, page 722, November 26, page 855, and this issue, page 947], which was referred to the Parliamentary Committee, when

Mr. WOOLTON asked that the Parliamentary Committee have power to take action on the letter, as from what he knew of the contents of the letter it would be useless to defer action till January.

At Mr. Woolton's request the letter was read, detailing how the title clause had been altered during the progress of the Ordinance through the Legislature. It was objected that Chinese and Eurasian dealers in drugs would be able to designate themselves chemists and druggists after a local examination, which would be unfair to those who have passed the examinations of the Pharmaceutical Society. The letter asked that the Society consider whether they are able to help the members living in the Straits Settlements in opposing the Ordinance or getting the objectionable provisions repealed.

The letter was referred to the Parliamentary Committee, who were also given power to act.

OTHER LETTERS.

A letter from the Privy Council approving of the recent appointments of examiners was received.

The Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate have been in correspondence in regard to the regulations for local examinations for September, 1905. Section 2 of the syllabus has been amended by the removal of English grammar, its place being taken by various exercises in English composition—a change which the Syndicate thought

would appeal to those interested in education. The point was that as the revised regulations did not answer the requirements of the Pharmaceutical Society the Syndicate asked that the Society recognise the altered conditions. As a result of further correspondence, the Syndicate, owing to the necessity of sending out their syllabus, agreed to make no reference to the Pharmaceutical Society in the section dealing with the Junior examination.

The By-laws Committee are to consider this.

A letter was received from the Society of Chemist-Opticians thanking the Society for the use of the lecture-theatre for their evening meeting of November.

Two certificates from the University of Malta were accepted as evidence of preliminary knowledge for the Preliminary examination.

The PRESIDENT remarked that the next meeting of the Council would be on January 11, and was closing the meeting, when

The TREASURER made a statement as regards the mission he was entrusted with at the last meeting of placing before the Pharmacopœia Committee the Compendium Committee's view on the necessity for new designations for smaller metric measures, such as a cubic centimetre and parts thereof. The Treasurer duly placed the matter before the Pharmacopœia Committee, and had since received a letter from Dr. MacAlister (whom he incidentally congratulated on his election as President of the General Medical Council) in which Dr. MacAlister said the committee agreed that convenient subsidiary names were required for the millilitre, tenth, and hundredth of a millilitre. Application has been made by the Pharmacopœia Committee to the Warden of Standards, and he informed the committee that the matter rested with the Board of Trade. Further communication with the Board of Trade resulted in the answer that the Board are considering the matter.

This ended the public business.

Business Changes.

MR. WALTER KESTERTON, chemist and druggist, has removed from 107 to 155 Duke Street, St. Helens.

MR. F. B. KIRBY has purchased the business of the late Mr. J. D. D. Thomas, pharmaceutical chemist, at 128 Ashley Road, Bristol.

MR. JOHN D. JONES, Queen's Park, Bedford, is opening a branch at 115 Midland Road, Bedford, under the style of "The Bedford Drug Co."

A BRANCH PHARMACY has been opened at 52 Ordnance Street, Chatham, by Mr. G. A. Morris, chemist and druggist, of 24 High Street, Rochester.

MR. A. R. KEITH, chemist and druggist, of Holloway, N., has purchased the businesses of Mr. S. Kirk at 6 Christ Street and 89 Upper North Street, Poplar, E.

MR. J. T. GRIFFIN, chemist and druggist, formerly of Market Harborough, has taken over the business at 54 Main Street, Cockermouth, formerly carried on by Mr. Joseph Straughton.

BOTANICAL DIAGRAMS.—We mentioned recently that Mr. W. B. Cowie, Principal of the Edinburgh Central School of Pharmacy, is the possessor of a fine set of botanical diagrams designed by himself. He has now had reproduced in colours by lithography a number of these representing *Composite*, *Cruciferae*, *Leguminosae*, *Liliaceae*, *Ranunculaceae*, *Umbelliferae*, and one other. Mr. Cowie calls attention to the following points:

(a) The upper part of each diagram is suitable for elementary botany and the lower part for advanced.

(b) Each diagram contains the details of one natural order.

(c) The colours are used to denote certain parts in the sections—*e.g.*, calyx (green), petals (pink), andræcium (yellow), gynæcium (blue). This is of great value to beginners, as they very quickly understand the relative positions of the parts.

The diagrams are varnished, and are published at two guineas a set. They are large, and designed for classroom, but chemists' associations would find them useful to their junior members and decorative as well. They can be obtained from Mr. Cowie, 26 Clyde Street, Edinburgh.

Legal Reports.

Trade Law.

Libelling a Trader by Disparaging his Goods.—Is it not generally understood that a man may libel another by speaking disparagingly of the latter's goods, but without referring to him in his personal and private capacity. As a learned judge of the High Court has put it, "You may crack up your own goods as long as you like; you may say that your goods are better than anybody else's and that your goods have qualities that others have not. It may be true or untrue, but you are entitled to do that. You have no right to say of your neighbour's goods that they are bad or rotten if it is untrue, and if it results in damage to your rival." This statement of the law has many times been upheld, and it has been specially emphasised in a case heard before the Judges of Appeal (*Alcott v. Millars, Ltd.*, and another).

The Six-years' Debt Limit.—By the Statute of Limitations the recovery of a debt is barred by the lapse of six years following the last payment or acknowledgment of the debt. In a recent case before the Court of Appeal a debtor wrote to his creditor before the expiration of six years after a debt was incurred to the following effect: "I am willing to sell the shares I hold in A. B. Co. for the sum of £167, and in the event of my doing so I will with the money pay the 10s. call due on a portion of the above shares, amounting to 314s., and the balance in settlement of my account with you, amounting at December 31 last to 501s." There was no evidence that the debtor had sold the shares referred to, but Mr. Justice Phillimore, before whom the action was tried in the High Court, found that the letter contained an acknowledgment of the debt without any negative words which would take it out of the operation of the statute, and gave judgment for the creditor. Debtor then appealed to the Court above, and the decision has been reversed. The Master of the Rolls said that the letter contained no unconditional promise to pay, but only a promise to pay under certain conditions; there was no unqualified acknowledgment of the debt, nor anything to show whether the debtor recognised the sum named as one payable in any event. At any rate, the promise was a conditional one, which was clearly expressed in the letter; and where a condition is plainly expressed it is not admissible that some other condition or an unconditional promise should be implied.

The Duties of a Mercantile Agent.—A merchant carrying on business at Amsterdam sent certain goods to a broker in London. The latter, without any authority from the merchant, pledged the goods through a friend. The merchant brought an action against the pawnbrokers to recover the goods. It was found by Mr. Justice Channell, who heard the action in the King's Bench Division, that defendants accepted the goods in pledge in good faith and without any notice that they were not being pledged by their owner or by his authority; and the question at issue was whether the defendants were protected by Section 2 of the Factors Act, 1889. That section provides that where a mercantile agent is, with the owner's consent, in possession of goods, or of the documents of title to goods, any sale, pledge, or other disposition of the goods made by him while acting in the ordinary course of his business as a mercantile agent, shall . . . be as valid as if he were expressly authorised by the owner of the goods to make the same; provided that the person taking under the disposition acts in good faith and has not, at the time of the disposition, notice that the person making it has not authority to do so. The Judge held that it is not part of the ordinary course of the business of a mercantile agent to employ a friend to pledge goods entrusted to him. His business is to raise money either by going himself or by sending his clerk; he therefore gave judgment for the return of the goods, on the specific ground that the defendants were not protected in these circumstances by the section of the Act referred to.

High Court Cases.

A SHIP MARK FOR SOAPS.

In the Chancery Division on Friday, December 2, before Mr. Justice Swinfen Eady, a motion in the case of *Price's Patent Candle Co. v. Oowana, Ltd.*, was mentioned. Mr. Eve, K.C., stated that the motion was for an interim injunction to restrain an alleged infringement of a trade-mark. Counsel agreed that the motion should stand over for a week.

A SACCHARIN SUIT

A MOTION for judgment in default of appearance in the action of the Saccharine Corporation against J. Pratt & Sons, of Manchester, came before Mr. Justice Swinfen

Eady in the Chancery Division on Saturday, December 3. The action was in regard to an infringement of the company's patents in the different stages of manufacture, and the plaintiffs claimed an injunction against the defendants. His Lordship made the usual order in favour of the plaintiffs.

A POST-PARTNERSHIP DISPUTE.

MR. JUSTICE JELF has made the following order in the action by Mr. James Spilsbury, pharmaceutical chemist, against Messrs. Josiah Blackwell and Joseph Hayes, wholesale druggists, Birmingham, for alleged breach of a covenant:

1. That the plaintiff be at liberty to forthwith sign judgment for £l. damages against the defendants for breach of the said covenant.
2. That the defendants and each of them, and their servants and agents, be restrained from in any way using or permitting to be used the name of the plaintiff or any reference to his connection with the former partnership business upon any invoices, stationery, or documents issued or used by them.
3. That the defendants do forthwith deliver up upon oath all invoices, stationery, or documents printed or issued in breach of the said covenants.
4. That the defendants do pay the costs of the action.

The action had reference to the issue by defendants of an analysis price-list bearing plaintiff's name, which they explained was old, and was sent out accidentally and without their authority.

PAPIER POUDRÉ.

MR. JUSTICE KEKEWICH, in the Chancery Division on Tuesday, December 6, had before him an action brought by S. F. Goss, Ltd., 460 Oxford Street, London, against Papier Poudré, Ltd., 23 Somerset Street, Portman Square, London, and Annie Sarah Butler. Plaintiffs' claim was that under an agreement of March 25, 1897, made between them and the defendants, the two preceding agreements, made in May and October, 1898, by the defendant Butler with the plaintiff company, should be ratified, and that the defendants, Papier Poudré, Ltd., should pay to the plaintiff company a commission of 10 per cent. upon the whole retail value of 6d. and 1s. books of papier poudré, and that Papier Poudré, Ltd., were to allow to the plaintiff company the discount of 60 per cent. on all purchases made by the plaintiff company of the preparation, and that accounts of all sales by the defendants of the preparation were to be rendered to the plaintiff company. Plaintiffs also claimed a declaration that a preparation manufactured by the defendants and sold by them, under the name of "Lecarhesor," was the same or a colourable substitute for the preparation which was the subject of the agreements, and that under the agreements the plaintiff company were entitled to have accounts rendered of all retail sales by the defendants, or either of them, of the preparation, whether called by the name Lecarhesor or otherwise. Plaintiffs further asked for a declaration that by selling the preparation, in books or otherwise, under the name of Lecarhesor, the defendants had committed, and were committing, breaches of the agreements. An order was asked that the defendants should render to the plaintiff company an account of all sales in 1903 of the preparation, Lecarhesor, or otherwise described. In addition, plaintiffs asked the Court to grant an injunction to restrain defendants, their agents, and servants from selling the preparation under the name of Lecarhesor. At the date of the first of the agreements the defendant, Mrs. Butler, was the proprietress of a preparation for the skin in the nature of a toilet-powder called "Papier Poudré," which the defendant registered in her own name, trading as the Papier Poudré Co. Plaintiffs' case was that, by an agreement in writing of May 9, Mrs. Butler appointed the plaintiff company to be her sole agents for one year in Great Britain and the English Colonies for the sale of the preparation, on terms, among others, that all articles to be supplied by the defendant Mrs. Butler should be purchased by the plaintiff company at certain prices, and that the plaintiff company would guarantee to purchase not less than 150l. worth of the papier poudré during the year. In October, 1898, the defendant Mrs. Butler, by an agreement in writing, further appointed the plaintiff company to be her sole selling agents for Scotland on the terms of allowing to them an extra discount of 10 per cent. on all orders from Scotland as well as on all wholesale purchases in Great Britain and the British Colonies, making the discount in

all 60 per cent. all round. About November, 1898, Papier Poudré, Ltd., was formed, with a capital of 1,200*l.*, for the purpose of acquiring the business carried on by Mrs. Butler. Certain contracts were entered into, and these stipulated that—

S. F. Goss, Ltd., are to guarantee the minimum annual sale in the United Kingdom and the Colonies of 500*l.* net, but all sales, of whatsoever nature, made by Mrs. Butler or Papier Poudré, Ltd., to customers in the United Kingdom and Colonies are to be treated as part of the minimum of 500*l.* Papier Poudré, Ltd., are to allow to S. F. Goss, Ltd., the discount of 60 per cent. upon all purchases, and payments for such purchases are to be made by S. F. Goss, Ltd., in cash. S. F. Goss, Ltd., are to be allowed to sell to the trade at such prices as may be mutually agreed upon. There was also the following clause:

S. F. Goss, Ltd., agree to use all possible energy in extending the sale of papier poudré, and they are not to be interested as agents, during the continuance of the contracts, in the sale of any other preparation of a similar description.

The total sales of papier poudré by Papier Poudré, Ltd., in 1903 realised 7,351*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*, and the commission payable to the plaintiff company amounted to 755*l.* 3*s.* 3*d.*

Defendants denied that "Lecarhesor" was subject to the provisions of the agreements, or that plaintiffs had any interests in that preparation. They further alleged that the defendants had not taken any steps to push or extend the sale; also that the plaintiffs had since the commencement of the agreements, as agents, been interested in the sale of other preparations, of a similar description to, and being colourable imitations of, papier poudré, and that they had sold papier poudré at prices lower than those agreed upon. Defendants counterclaimed against the plaintiffs for damages for alleged breach of the agreements. Mr. P. Ogden Lawrence, K.C., and Mr. Muir Mackenzie appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. Stewart Smith, K.C., and Mr. Petersen for the defendants.

Evidence for the plaintiffs was given by the manager and secretary of the company, and Mr. Lawrence was to call an analyst to speak as to the composition of the powders, when

Mr. Stewart Smith asked his Lordship to give some indication of the trend of his opinion as to the construction of the agreement. The two preparations were made by secret processes, and it was not to the interest of the plaintiffs or defendants to divulge these.

His Lordship said that on the mere question of the construction of the agreements he did not think there was any room for doubt. In the agreements the papier poudré was described as "that which Mrs. Butler supplies." Lecarhesor was protected by the same trade-mark as the other papier poudré. He had not the slightest doubt that the defendant company were bound by these agreements as regarded all papier poudré they supplied.

Mr. Lawrence said that decision would dispose of the action, and on it he would be entitled to relief in the terms of his Lordship's judgment. Plaintiffs would be entitled to be supplied with discounts on Lecarhesor, and his Lordship would direct an account. Plaintiffs would not ask for the injunction, but they desired liberty to apply should the terms of the judgment not be carried out.

The Court then considered the counterclaim brought by the defendants for damages for alleged breach of agreement by S. F. Goss, Ltd.

Mr. Albert Smith, manager of plaintiffs' Oxford Street shop, deposed to how the papier poudré had been shown in the window. Mr. H. C. Quelch, wholesale druggist and sundriesman, 4 Ludgate Square, said he had sold papier poudré for S. F. Goss, Ltd., the usual discount allowed him being 50 per cent. He had used his best endeavours to push papier poudré, both wholesale and retail, and also in connection with the export trade. His travellers went to all the principal towns in England, Scotland, and Ireland. It was through the London buying agencies that he introduced the goods to the Colonies. During the first year his sales were somewhere about 200*l.* The next year they rose to 400*l.*, the following year 700*l.*, and last year they were 1,500*l.* The article was bought largely in South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand. As he had an interest in pushing, he did his best to further the sale. He knew of no article that had succeeded in the same way as this one.

The hearing was resumed on Wednesday.

Edward Alex. Rourke, secretary of Papier Poudré, Ltd., said that from April 1 to December 31, 1899, his company sold papier poudré to the amount of 474*l.* 18*s.* 11*d.*; Goss, Ltd., sold 659*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.*, and Goss received 89*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.* commission. In 1900 Papier Poudré, Ltd., sold 1,215*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.*, and Goss sold 1,244*l.* 17*s.* 5*d.*; commission to Goss, 224*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.* In 1901 Papier Poudré, Ltd., sold 2,737*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.*, Goss sold 1,130*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.*; commission paid to Goss, 529*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.* In 1902 Papier Poudré, Ltd., sold 2,753*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.*, and Goss sold 1,750*l.* 16*s.* 7*d.*; commission to Goss, 510*l.* 4*s.* 8*d.* In 1903 Papier Poudré sold 3,814*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.*, Goss sold 1,994*l.*; commission to Goss, 735*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.* For the nine months in 1904 ended September 30, Papier Poudré, Ltd., sold 3,348*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.*, Goss sold 1,808*l.* 1*s.* 3*d.*; commission to Goss, 650*l.* 18*s.* 3*d.* The witness afterwards detailed the steps which Papier Poudré, Ltd., had taken to advertise the goods in ladies' papers and trade journals.

Mrs. Butler also gave evidence, and Mr. Stewart Smith addressed the Court.

His Lordship, without calling upon Mr. Lawrence, gave judgment dismissing the counterclaim, which, he said, was a formidable indictment. It seemed to him that S. F. Goss, Ltd., had done what was fair as regards exhibiting papier poudré in their shop-windows. It was alleged that a great deal of increased sale of the preparation was due to the direct action of Papier Poudré, Ltd. That might be so, but it was also largely due to what S. F. Goss, Ltd., had done in bringing the article before customers. His Lordship also pointed to Goss's arrangement with Mr. Quelch, who sold other preparations of similar description to papier poudré, called "Tetlow," and if he had entered into a contract not to sell any preparation of a similar character he would have committed a breach of his agreement in that particular. But the Papier Poudré Co.'s agreement was with Goss, Ltd., and Quelch did not sell as agent so as to make Goss, Ltd., accountable to Papier Poudré, Ltd., for what they sold to Quelch. The relations between Goss, Ltd., and Quelch were not those of principal and agent. The counterclaim therefore entirely failed, and was dismissed, with costs.

Pharmacy Act, 1868.

THE HAMILTON CASES.

As briefly reported in our last issue, Sheriff Thomson had before him at Hamilton on December 1 four cases of infringement of the Act by assistants to medical men, all of whom were fined. The cases were regarded as important, and an appeal may be taken on two technical points. Mr. Peter Morison, jun., S.S.C., prosecuted on behalf of the Pharmaceutical Society; and Mr. Finlay, Glasgow, solicitor to the Medical and Dental Defence Association recently formed, defended each of the respondents.

The first case taken was that against Mary Christina Edward, assistant in the shop of Dr. Hugh Mackay, Cambuslang, who pleaded not guilty to a charge of selling veratrine in a box of Rankin's ointment and red oxide of mercury ointment.

Mr. J. R. Hill spoke to having employed Mrs. Emma McKellar and A. M. Stewart to purchase the poisons on September 23. The Act had been contravened in respect that this virulent vegetable poison veratrine had been sold to a person unknown, it was not entered in the poison-book giving the quantity sold, the purpose for which it was declared to be required, and the signature of the purchaser. Rankin's ointment is not, he said, a patent medicine, but merely a proprietary article. It is an insecticide—a poison used for destroying vermin and other insects.

The Sheriff asked if the witness could give him any instance of a patent medicine in the early sense of the word.

The witness instanced Kaye's essence of linseed, but several are struck at by the Act. There are numerous proprietary medicines and very few patent medicines, but the Medicine-stamp Acts cover both.

The Sheriff asked if the word "patent" was not used as a general term to include proprietary medicines.

Mr. Morison said he thought he would be able to satisfy his Lordship that that was quite decided.

The examination of the witness was continued at great

length; he first explained the difference between patent and proprietary medicines, then that the respondent is not qualified, and that Dr. Mackay takes out the patent-medicine licence for the shop. He also told what the General Medical Council had done in 1901 regarding medical men keeping shops with unqualified assistants in them. In cross-examination he admitted that Mrs. McKellar is a kind of detective in the employment of the Pharmaceutical Society. He had to answer questions put by Mr. Finlay about trapping people into offences, and about preparations of poisons not being poisons unless they are specifically mentioned in the schedule. The hearing then proceeded thus:

Do you claim that preparations of these vegetable alkaloids are penal under this Act?—We have not charged a preparation; we have charged the alkaloid itself.

Do you claim a preparation to be an article?

Mr. Morison here interposed and said his friend could only cross-examine Mr. Hill in regard to the article they charged the sale of. It was quite irrelevant to cross-examine in regard to a different article than the one they were charging.

The Sheriff said he could not exclude this evidence. He did not think it was so widely irrelevant as to be objected to.

Mr. Finlay: Is it penal under the Act to sell a preparation of a vegetable alkaloid?—Witness: I am afraid that is a question of law.

Mr. Finlay put other questions on this point and in regard to the methods by which these cases are got up and what are patent medicines.

Mr. Joseph Tait, assistant to Mr. Hill, corroborated his evidence.

Mrs. McKellar and A. M. Stewart proved the purchase.

For the defence the respondent was examined by Mr. Finlay. She is twenty years of age, and had been a year in Dr. Mackay's shop and four years with chemists before that. She is studying in the West of Scotland School of Pharmacy. She had no recollection of the sales, and knew nothing about the "Gazette" order of 1869. She is no longer with Dr. Mackay. She was cross-examined by Mr. Morison, and the Sheriff tried to get light from her as to the distinction between patent and proprietary medicines, but further than that patent medicines are stamped she could not say.

Mr. Finlay at this point stated that he did not recognise the English decision on this point (Pharmaceutical Society v. Piper).

Mr. Morison then addressed the Court, and in the course of his remarks the Sheriff asked why he did not prosecute the doctors. It seemed to him unfair not to do so. Mr. Morison explained, adding, "It is with the greatest regret that we cannot prosecute the doctors."

The Sheriff: If the doctor is a fair man, he will make it up as far as he can; but if he is an unfair man, she is the victim.

Mr. Morison said that there had been similar cases in Glasgow where the same remarks had been made. They considered it a great hardship. He explained the legal difference between patent and proprietary medicines, and remarked that the General Medical Council's resolution had not stopped doctors keeping unqualified persons in their shops. He asked for a substantial penalty.

The Sheriff said it seemed monstrous to fine severely a person guilty of nothing more than a technical offence while the real offender was undoubtedly the master. Why could not the Pharmaceutical Society and the General Medical Council take up the matter and deal with the real offenders?

Mr. Morison said the Legislature had placed upon the Registrar the duty of prosecuting, and it had been decided that it was the person who sells the poison that must be prosecuted. They had no option.

The Sheriff: But when the Act is so unfortunate where the truly guilty party is not reached, why do not responsible bodies like the General Medical Council or the Pharmaceutical Society take the matter up and deal with the offenders directly?

Mr. Morison: That is exactly what we have done. He explained, adding that since 1900 the Society had taken practically no prosecutions at all, but had given these gentlemen the opportunity of making their arrangements in

accordance with the order. They had snapped their fingers at their own body, and these illegal practices would go on in that neighbourhood to the great danger of the public unless his Lordship imposed a substantial penalty.

The Sheriff: Why should you not take powers to deal with your members like the Incorporated Law Societies?

Mr. Morison: We have no disciplinary powers at all.

The Sheriff: But why not apply for them?

Mr. Morison: I am afraid we shall not get them.

Mr. Finlay then addressed his Lordship on behalf of the respondent. He pointed out that under Section 17 of the Act it was the bounden duty of the prosecutor to hold the proprietor of the shop liable.

Mr. Morison pointed out that that section applied to labelling—not selling.

Mr. Finlay said it would be an easy thing for the Pharmaceutical Society to go to Parliament to get an alteration of the Act. But it did not suit them to do that.

The Sheriff said the Pharmaceutical Society took these prosecutions not for their own interest, but in the interest of the public. He did not see why they should not carry it one step further by getting an amending Act. In giving judgment he said he must follow the decisions in the English courts. It was suggested that the penalty should be small because the accused was the mere servant of Dr. Mackay. But, as Mr. Morison had said, in other courts of this country a different view had been taken, and these courts had imposed substantial penalties. The offence was a serious one, and it was in the interest of the public that the statute should be enforced by penalties adequate to the seriousness of the offence; and if he could not strike at the person really and truly liable—this doctor who kept the shop—he must proceed against the person whom alone the statute recognised as responsible for this serious offence. On that double ground he would impose a penalty of 2*l.*, or 21 days', and 3*7s.* 6*d.* costs.

This case had occupied fully two hours, and Mr. Morison suggested to Mr. Finlay that they should hold the evidence in the case just decided as ruling the other three cases; but Mr. Finlay said the cases were not all similar, and he could not accept the suggestion. The Sheriff said he could not inquire as to whether Mr. Finlay was to take a suspension, but if he was he might allow the other cases to await the decision in the appeal. Mr. Finlay said he would have to inquire further on the question of an appeal. After more talk and a consultation between Mr. Finlay and his clients,

Isabella Hislop Eadie, an assistant in the shop of Dr. T. D. Laird, Cambuslang, pleaded guilty to a charge of selling veratrine in Rankin's ointment on September 23. She was fined 2*s.* 6*d.*, and 3*7s.* 6*d.* expenses.

Alexander Grey, assistant in the shop of Dr. R. B. Macpherson, pleaded not guilty to a charge the same as in the first case. The evidence showed that there was no poison-label on the box. His Lordship held the case proved, and inflicted the same penalty as in the first case.

William Jack (15), assistant to Dr. James Alison, Cambuslang, pleaded not guilty to having sold a box of Rankin's ointment and a box of red-precipitate ointment on September 23.

Mr. Hill, in his evidence, stated that after the summons was served he had a communication from John Thomson Oliver, the qualified assistant in the shop, who stated that accused had instructions not to sell poisons, and the boy had no recollection of selling the ointment. After the evidence for the prosecution and the defence, and a somewhat breezy exchange of opinion between counsel, the Sheriff said, "It shows great negligence that poisons like these should be sold without any label at all. I could not have believed that a qualified practitioner would allow poisons to be sold in such a way. It is very serious." He held the case proved, and imposed the same penalty as in the first and third cases.

In each of the cases accused was allowed a month to pay.

BRADFORD CHEMISTS SUED.

At the Bradford City Police Court on Wednesday, December 8, summonses were returnable which had been issued against Herbert G. Dutton, 26 Tyrral Street; L. & T. B. Sutcliffe, 15 Carlisle Road; F. A. Wetmat, 32 Westgate; J. Savage & Co., Ltd., 170 Westgate; John M. W. Newbould, 174 Lamb Lane; and Arthur Farcl, 205 Westgate.

The summonses had been taken out under Section 17 of the Act, by Mr. Leggatt, Secretary of the Patent-medicine Vendors' and Drug-stores' Association, and the offence alleged is, "selling certain poison called veratrine to one Margaret McCann, who was then unknown to you." When the cases were reached it was intimated that, owing to the serious illness of one of the witnesses for the prosecution, an adjournment until January 4, 1905, had been arranged.

Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

SPIRIT OF AMMONIA.

At the Aberdeen Sheriff Court on December 5 Mr. A. W. Berry, chemist, Dyce, was charged with selling spirit of ammonia which was certified by Mr. James Hendrick, the public analyst, to be 50 per cent. deficient in strength. For the defence Mr. John Ewen, solicitor, explained that Mr. Berry had purchased the spirit from an Edinburgh firm, and on learning that it did not conform to the Pharmacopœia he wrote to the wholesalers, who replied that it was tested and guaranteed. He then sent a sample to the Westminster College of Pharmacy, where Mr. Hendrick's analysis was confirmed. Mr. Ewen explained that the weakness was due to evaporation, and submitted that the offence was a technical one.

Sheriff Robertson imposed a fine of 3*l.*, with the alternative of ten days' imprisonment.

COD-LIVER OIL.

The adjourned hearing of the action against Mrs. Fowkes, 342 King's Road, Chelsea, S.W., for the sale of cod-liver oil alleged to be adulterated with fish oil, came before the Kensington Petty Sessions on Tuesday, December 6. The first hearing was fully reported in our issue of November 19, page 823, and the adjournment was made to enable the Principal Chemist of the Government Laboratories to report on the reserve sample.

Mr. C. H. Kirby (Messrs. Neve, Beck & Kirby), who appeared for the defendant, said he had seen the certificate sent down from Somerset House, and he acknowledged it to be against his case. According to the certificate, the oil did not conform to the tests specified in the British Pharmacopœia, and it proceeded: "We are therefore of opinion that the sample is not pure cod-liver oil." Mr. Kirby criticised the certificate, which, he said, was a curious one. It did not declare that the sample was not pure cod-liver oil, but it appeared to be based upon the assumption that the Pharmacopœia tests were absolutely reliable. Those at Somerset House would not commit themselves to any statement as to the tests really being reliable. Neither did the certificate state what the supposed adulterant was, nor what was the quantity and extent of the adulteration. Both these particulars were given by the public analyst in his certificate. Mr. Kirby contended that, although the Somerset House certificate was against the defence, yet it did not confirm the public analyst's certificate. He had been given to understand that the Somerset House analysts, in answer to a query as to whether cod-liver oil was liable to decomposition, had replied that cod-liver oil might be kept for more than twelve months without showing any signs of decomposition provided it had been properly prepared. All oils of animal origin became rancid if exposed to light and air. He said that cod-liver oil on sale in the ordinary way must be exposed to air and light from time to time, if not continuously; and he submitted that this was a distinct confirmation of the point which he had already taken—namely, that cod-liver oil is liable to decomposition—and he maintained that, according to the Act, a statement as to whether the sample had undergone any change should have been in the certificate. If his point were right, the summons must fail, and he believed the objection to be fatal. But supposing the Bench did not decide the case in his favour upon this point, he would then ask for an adjournment, as further analytical investigations regarding the purity of this oil were desirable. The defence also wished to obtain evidence from Newfoundland and Norway, as to the exact mode of manufacture of the oil; and, further, they wished to trace it from the time it left the manufacturer to the time of the purchase by the inspector. One of the manufacturers, at least, was prepared to guarantee the purity of the oil which

he had supplied. The question was one of the greatest importance, for if the oil in question were adjudged to be impure, it was certain that nearly the whole of the cod-liver oil now being sold in this country was also impure. He asked for an adjournment, and said he was prepared to subpoena an analyst from Somerset House to give evidence in the case.

Mr. F. Smith, solicitor, appearing for the prosecution, objected to any adjournment on the ground that the other side had already had plenty of time to gather fresh evidence, and at least five days in which to subpoena an analyst from Somerset House. He asked for a conviction against the defendant, submitting that he had fully proved his case, and done all that was required.

The Chairman said, "We were not at all satisfied before the last adjournment that the tests to which the oil was submitted were reliable, and we are still less satisfied now. We are rather in favour of an adjournment in order that fresh evidence may be obtained."

Mr. Smith presumed that if the other side were allowed to call fresh evidence, he also would be permitted to bring forward more expert evidence.

The Bench assented and the Chairman said, "This is a very important case: we think that every possible light should be thrown upon it. That is our reason for acquiescing with what has been said in favour of our granting an adjournment."

The case was adjourned accordingly, also two other cases of a similar nature.

County Court Cases.

A YEAST-FOOD RESEARCH.

In the City of London Court on Monday, December 5, before Judge Lumley Smith, K.C., an action was brought by Mr. Arthur R. Ling, F.I.C., F.C.S., analytical chemist, 74 Great Tower Street, E.C., against Mr. W. A. Wayland, F.C.S., manufacturing chemist, Gosterwood Street, Deptford, to recover the sum of 60*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* for making analyses of certain yeast foods to his order. Mr. Harold Simmons, plaintiff's counsel, said that the action, which had been remitted from the High Court of Justice, had been brought by the plaintiff to recover payment not only for making analyses, but for giving the defendant valuable commercial information in regard to enabling him to put a new yeast food on the market, the result of many months' careful research on the plaintiff's part. The defence substantially was that the plaintiff's charges were not fair and reasonable, and twelve guineas had been paid into court as being sufficient to satisfy the plaintiff's demands.

Mr. I. A. Symmons, defendant's counsel, said the main defence was that the greater portion of the work which the plaintiff had done was not ordered. The plaintiff had done it voluntarily.

Mr. Ling, in evidence, said it was not true that he had simply to analyse the samples submitted to him. He had to find out what they consisted of and then to set about to find an improvement on them, so that the defendant could put the result of his investigations on the market. It was thought at one time that the yeast foods on the market contained an antiseptic to preserve them, but he found that not to be so. He found the keeping properties to be due to an acid. He considered the possibility of arsenical contamination of the yeast foods prepared from malt culms and yeast, as sometimes arsenic is very high in malt culms, and the small amount of arsenic unavoidably present in all brewing-materials is concentrated in the yeast. His experience showed that the whole of the arsenic in yeast does not go into the extract. He was able to introduce the defendant to a friend (from whom he obtained malt culms free from arsenic) who dried his malt by hot air instead of by the products of combustion. The fees which he had charged were framed on a low basis because he regarded the defendant as a friend. He would probably have charged 120*l.* to anyone else. There were probably twenty consultations. The defendant gave him a free hand in the investigations, and, considering that there were a lot of trade secrets involved, he thought his fees very moderate and quite friendly. He claimed that his investigations were novel and original work, which could not be paid for at the same rate as ordinary analyses.

Mr. Otto Hehner, said the plaintiff stands very high in his profession as a brewing and malt expert. The charges were ridiculously moderate and totally inadequate, considering what he had done. The plaintiff's investigations led to the production of alkaline. In cross-examination the witness admitted that he occupied such a position in the profession that he could charge possibly as high a fee as any man.

Dr. Bernard Dyer and Mr. Julian L. Baker also gave evidence for the plaintiff.

For the defence, Mr. Wayland, the defendant, said he is an analytical chemist practising in Deptford, with branches at Birmingham and New York. He had made an analysis of the samples which he had sent to the plaintiff before forwarding them, and the reason he took the plaintiff into the affair was, first, to give him a turn, as he was just starting on his own account, and to have his own (defendant's) opinion confirmed. He looked upon the whole affair as a friendly matter, as the plaintiff came to him on the introduction of a mutual friend. He never thought he was going to have sent into him a bill amounting to 60*l.*, and would never have employed the plaintiff had he known it. The sum paid into court was quite enough under the circumstances.

Mr. Matthew J. Cannon, F.C.S., 17 Devonshire Square, considered two guineas would be ample for each analysis; and Mr. Oliver F. Russell, analytical chemist, 90 Lower Thames Street, E.C., said he would not have made the elaborate investigations which the plaintiff had done without specific instructions.

Judge Lumley Smith said he would take time to consider his judgment.

THE DOCTOR'S ALLEGATIONS.

At Southwark County Court on December 1 Messrs. Hearon, Squire & Francis, Ltd., wholesale druggists, of Southwark Street, S.E., sued Dr. J. Wilkie, of Lansdown Road, London Fields, N.E., to recover 5*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.* for drugs supplied. The plaintiffs reduced the claim by 19*s.* 3*d.*, as returns had been received since the issue of the summons. The defendant complained that the plaintiffs sent him ordinary washing-soda for bicarbonate of soda, and he did not discover it until after he had supplied some to his patients, to the prejudice of his practice. The washing-soda was powdered so that it could not be detected by the eye. He wished to protest against the way in which wholesale druggists carried on their business. He believed that he had been supplied with poison for harmless drugs. The plaintiffs denied the allegations and declared that the soda delivered was bicarbonate of soda. No complaint was made for eighteen months, and until the summons was issued, but, instead the defendant had promised to pay within a week. The Registrar said there was no defence, but he would deduct 2*s.* on account of the soda. He gave judgment for the plaintiffs for 4*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.* and costs on 5*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.*

New Companies & Company News.

SMITH'S (CARDIFF), LTD.—Capital 1,500*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To acquire from S. Wilkinson the mineral-water business carried on by him at 2 Eldon Road, Cardiff, as "Smith's," and to carry it on. Registered office, 2 Eldon Road, Cardiff.

MACDONALDS (LONDON), LTD.—Capital 100*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To carry on the business of dentists, artificial-teeth manufacturers, extractors, fillers, stoppers, and scalers of natural teeth, etc. The first directors are A. Macdonald and C. W. Dowswell. Registered office, 26 Ludgate Hill, E.C.

CAPSULOID CO., LTD. The directors recommend a dividend of 7½ per cent.

A NEW SPANISH COMPANY of wholesale druggists and perfumers has recently been organised at Bilbao, under the name Señores Barandaran y Cia.

SALE OF SHARES.—At Nottingham, on November 23, 140 5-per-cent. preference shares in Schweppes, Ltd., were sold at 1*l.* 0*s.* 3*d.* per share; 90 1*l.* ordinary shares in Boots, Cash Chemists (Eastern), Ltd., realised 2*s.* 3*d.* per share; 20 1*l.* 6-per-cent. cumulative preference shares in Boots, Cash Chemists (Lancashire), Ltd., sold for 22*s.* 6*d.* per share; and 100 C. 6-per-cent. preference shares in Boot's Pure Drug Co., Ltd., realised 22*s.* 6*d.* per share.

IBBS & CO., LTD.—The directors report a substantial improvement in the sales for the past year, and a satisfactory

increase in the profits, which would have been considerably larger but for the high price of sugar. Another artesian well has been completed at Camden Town, which yields an abundant supply of pure water. New factories and stables have been erected at Teddington to cope with increased business in the Thames Valley district. The profit for the year (after charging interest on debenture stock, making allowances for depreciation, and providing a sinking fund for the redemption of the leasehold properties) is 15,344*l.*, which, with 2,169*l.* brought forward, makes 17,514*l.* standing to the credit of profit-and-loss account. The directors recommend that of this amount the sum of 15,000*l.* be distributed as follows: Dividends of 6 per cent. on A preference shares (6,600*l.*), 7 per cent. on B preference (700*l.*), 10 per cent. on A or ordinary shares (5,000*l.*), 10 per cent. on B ordinary (1,800*l.*), 5 per cent. on founders' shares (900*l.*); leaving a balance of 2,514*l.* to be carried forward. In the balance-sheets under "Assets" appear 142,867*l.* for leasehold and freehold properties, and 74,208*l.* for capital employed in branch businesses and sundry investments; the stock-in-trade is stated at 66,096*l.*, plant and machinery at 19,434*l.*, sundry debtors 29,477*l.*, goodwill 22,757*l.*, bills receivable 361*l.*, and balances at bank 15,843*l.* The ordinary general meeting will be held at Pratt Street, Camden Town, on December 12, at 3 P.M.

CAMWAL, LTD.—The annual report of the directors states that in spite of the extremely unfavourable business year they recommend a payment of dividends at the rate of 5 per cent. on the preference shares and of 2½ per cent. on the ordinary shares (being equal to 7½ per cent. on the original shares). This would absorb 4,316*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.*, leaving a balance of 1,174*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.* to be carried forward. In the balance-sheet an item of 29,789*l.* is put down on the debtor side for reserve account against bottles, syphons, soda-fountains, and cases in stock and customers' hands at selling-price. On the credit side, freehold and leasehold land, buildings, proprietary rights, etc., are stated at 98,127*l.*; plant, 12,227*l.*; tablets, giant syphons, etc., 3,770*l.*; syphons, bottles, cases, soda-fountains, etc., in stock (at selling-price), 38,286*l.*; syphons, etc., on loan (at selling-price), 31,024*l.*; due from customers, 16,226*l.*. In the profit-and-loss account the gross profit (after deducting depreciation) is given at 16,133*l.* and the net profit at 3,850*l.* The general expenses amounted to 7,452*l.*; directors' fees, etc., 458*l.*; interest on debentures, 1,946*l.*; bad debts, 240*l.* The annual meeting will be held at Anderson's Hotel, Fleet Street, E.C., on December 13, at 3 P.M.

LENNON, LTD.—The annual meeting was held at Cape Town on November 10. Mr. A. Walsh (chairman of directors) presiding. The directors' report stated that the net profit for the year ended June 30, 1904, was 28,729*l.*, and, adding 18,115*l.* brought forward from the previous year, a sum of 46,844*l.* was available for distribution. The directors recommended payment of a dividend on the 5 per cent. preference (8,750*l.*), dividend on the ordinary shares at 10 per cent. (23,585*l.*); placing 5,000*l.* to reserve fund, and carrying forward 9,509*l.* They also recommended that, in order to provide for further extension, the directors be authorised to issue an additional 2,500 5-per-cent. cumulative preference shares of 10*l.* each. Since the last annual meeting, the Legislature had imposed an income-tax, and the dividends on the preference shares had been paid less the tax. The directors recommended that income-tax on all dividends, both for the past and present years, be paid by the company, and that the amounts deducted be refunded with the next dividend. The report and balance-sheet were unanimously adopted. Messrs. A. J. Rivett and J. H. Bell were re-elected directors, and Mr. John Howell Carter was elected a director in place of Mr. Victor Browne, who has resigned. A resolution was passed expressing deep regret at the ill-health of Mr. Victor Browne, thanking him for his services to the company, and trusting he may be benefited by his visit to England.

Bankruptcy Report.

Re GEORGE ARTHUR CROWTHER, 96 Smedley Road, Cheetam, Manchester, late 358 Worsley Road, Winton, Patricroft, Lancashire, Drug, etc., Dealer.—It appears from the Official Receiver's remarks upon this case that the receiving order was made on November 24, on debtor's own petition. Debtor states that he started trading at 333 Worsley Road, Winton, in November, 1902, as manager for another, with practically 16*l.* free capital, and having paid the proprietor of the business the sum of 60*l.* he, on November 20, 1903, became the purchaser of the business for a further sum of 45*l.*, towards which he has paid 17*l.* 10*s.* The alleged causes of failure are insufficient capital and ill-health. According to the accounts filed the liabilities amount to 217*l.* 14*s.* 9*d.*, and the net assets to 64*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.* Among the creditors are J. F. Wilkinson, Pendleton (10*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.*), and J. Woolley, Sons & Co., Ltd., Manchester (43*l.* 7*s.* 7*d.*).

Observations and Reflections.

By XRAYSER.

Thanks to the President

of the Pharmaceutical Society, the redoubtable Clause 7 of the Pharmacy Bill, the one and only legislative bulwark which pharmacists have ever yet submitted to Parliament as a remedy for the grievance which they allege they suffer from, may now be regarded as officially dead. The President has practically told all whom it may concern, foes as well as friends, that the authors of the clause are hopeless of carrying it, and are now offering it for sale or exchange, though they still regard it as the proper means of justly reconciling company trading with existing pharmacy law. Whatever may be offered in lieu of it now, the clause in its integrity thus surrendered can never be set up again. So long as it figured in the Bill, so long it stood as the trade's protest against an anomaly and an injustice. Even if it never passed it was worth demanding as an assertion of the claim of qualified pharmacists against the usurpation of their hardly won rights by the insidious march of mere capital. In two British colonies the principle of the clause has been to an extent admitted; and why should it be assumed that because some official individual in London regards the Army and Navy Stores as something sacrosanct, the same logic will never convince legislators at Westminster? Assuredly they will never give us our rights if we do not ask for them. *Qui timide rogat docet negare*. According to the President, the Government thinks it sufficient if the manager or an assistant in a pharmacy is qualified. Surely we are better without any new Act at all than with one which will simply legalise that view.

Conscientious Dispensers

are sometimes charged with treating the prescriptions of physicians with almost undue reverence. They are at least as eager to accede to "the limitation of their discretion" as the prescriber can be to insist thereupon. The law demands this scrupulous obedience to the instructions of the physician, so far, at all events, as concerns the ingredients of the medicine to be compounded. But honour also requires the same strict adherence to the *litera scripta*, and the majority of pharmacists would extend the doctrine of the limitation to the repetition of prescriptions if instructions to the necessary effect were explicitly stated on the document itself. "I desire that this prescription shall not be dispensed after December 15, 1904," would be a binding command on all pharmacists who realise the responsibility of their duties; other chemists who might disregard the expression would take an ugly risk, and in any case the physician would have done all in his power to prevent the danger he anticipates. But chemists may fairly claim that such a direction shall be plainly written in English. It ought not to be arranged by a secret sign. The chemist will have to disoblige a customer; the physician should be as willing to risk the favour of his patient.

Modifications of the Metric System

devised with the object of ensuring safety in its employment for medical purposes are uncomfortably suggestive of its probable dangers. If there is so much risk in this scientific prescribing, the patient who may become the victim may not unreasonably ask why the new experiment should be tried on him. To tell a bed-ridden invalid that it was because a prescription so written would be understood better on the Continent would be, to say the least, inadequate. He is

not at the moment contemplating a trip abroad. Mr. Henry Fester makes some ingenious suggestions, the consideration of which would be useful if it were the case that the early adoption of the system is indeed inevitable. But his new "minin," to be the sixteenth of a c.c., cannot be made to square with any decimal system. No harm can be done by judiciously winking at the old minim, even if the gram and its comrades must be made compulsory. The one really safe method of prescribing in metric terms is to write out the denominations in full, and this precaution will be necessary for fifty years after the metric system has been made compulsory. Even then the distinction between grain and gram in some handwritings may not be altogether clear.

The 12-per-cent. Dividend

paid on the ordinary shares of Boots Eastern Co. leads, I think, to occasional misapprehension. I have often heard it said that "Boots pay 12 per cent." which is a truth that needs qualification. First, it should be understood that there are five distinct Boots companies—the Eastern, the Western, the Southern, the Lancashire, and Boots' Pure Drug Co. Of these it is only the Eastern which publishes its accounts to the world. The authorised capital of all the five companies is 1,415,000*l.*; the capital actually subscribed is (or was a year ago) 1,028,550*l.* The amount on which 12 per cent. is paid (or, rather, is known to be paid) is 80,000*l.* Boots' Pure Drug Co., with a capital of 355,000*l.*, apparently finances the other companies, and holds the ordinary shares in most of them. It may, of course, get 12 per cent. or more from these, or it may get less. It does not tell the public. The apparent difference in the results of Boots' and other drug companies may be variously accounted for. Possibly it shows that stationery and electroplate are more profitable businesses than pharmacy. It may be that a third or a fourth of the profits of Boots' Eastern Co. comes from interest on the reserve (68,000*l.*) and from buying and selling its own shares, transactions which I understand are strictly preserved.

The Shop-hours Act

is being discussed by associations of traders who may be affected by it all over the country. A glance through the various trade journals proves this, and the same glance proves, too, that there is a strong and widespread desire to secure the benefits which the Act was intended to bestow, or at least was intended to seem to bestow. And what a revolution it might work in the lives of, say, a hundred thousand toilers if it gave them, as might be given without loss to anyone, an hour a day for some change of thought and occupation.

Because a man has a shop to mind
In time and place, since flesh must live,
Need spirit lack all life behind,
All stray thoughts, fancy fugitive,
All loves except what trade can give?

But the more the Act is examined, the less feasible it appears. A circular has just been issued from the Home Office to Town Clerks pointing out the duties of local authorities under the Act, and bringing into relief the many difficulties that must arise—as, for example, the limits of districts, the definition of trades, and the estimation of the majority; reminding them, too, that "shops" may include wheelbarrows, and suggesting that "under cover of an exempted business" an order, if made, may be evaded. It is almost hopeless to expect that the Act will be adopted yet in large towns, but it may be anticipated that many small towns, where the principal difficulties do not present themselves, will set the example of getting orders which will cover all businesses—the sacred liquor-trade of course excepted.

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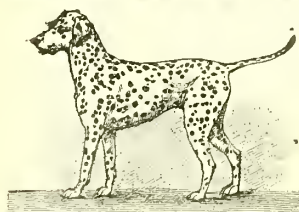
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Editorial Comments.

A Return to the Ranks.

THE resignation by Mr. Glyn-Jones of his office as Councillor of the Pharmaceutical Society may come as a surprise to chemists generally, but it has been felt by his colleagues and more intimate friends since he was called to the Bar that this step was inevitable. As a barrister and a chemist it is probable that he can serve the drug-trade more fully off the Council rather than on it, and although his return to the free-lance ranks of pharmacy has come perhaps sooner than was expected, we have no doubt as to the wisdom of

the step. During the comparatively short time he has been on the Council Mr. Glyn-Jones has done good work for the Society, and he leaves his mark on the administration in the shape of several permanent improvements. He entered the Council in 1899, sixth on the poll, with 1,927 votes to his credit out of 3,688 recorded. Perhaps the best tribute to his work was that given by the electors three years later, when they returned him at the top of the poll, with 2,256 votes out of the 2,541 recorded. It is solely to Mr. Glyn-Jones that we owe the departure from the *non possumus* policy on the company-pharmacy question. At the very first meeting of the Council which he attended the question came up on a motion to oppose the Lord Chancellor's Bill dealing with the subject. He argued that the Council should declare its position, but met with little encouragement. The matter was referred to Committee, which reported in November, 1899, submitting a clause to take the place of the Lord Chancellor's. This prohibited companies from keeping open shop as chemists and from using the titles pharmaceutical chemist and chemist and druggist or their equivalents. Mr. Glyn-Jones strenuously opposed this in a remarkable speech, wherein he showed the futility of such a demand, and argued that it was the duty of the Council to assist the Government in this matter by submitting a reasonable amendment of the Lord Chancellor's proposal. This he provided in the suggestions that the directors of a company are the equivalent of the individual proprietor, and that in pharmacy such directors should be registered chemists. His amendment to refer the matter back to the committee was carried by ten votes to eight. The subsequent action of the Council, resulting in the drafting of the Pharmacy Bill, has recently been related in these columns, and need not be again discussed, but we ought to say that most of the work in devising the complicated provisions of the Bill as to shop-registration, and other details for making the company clause effective, fell to Mr. Glyn-Jones, and in getting the Bill introduced into the House of Commons he was so assiduous that members of Parliament sought "the black-bearded man" when they wanted information. It is worth noting that Mr. Glyn-Jones retires from the Council at the moment when the President of the Society has by his public utterances made it impossible for the Pharmacy Bill in its present form to be reintroduced into Parliament. There seems to be no doubt that the President has committed himself to the principle of the Lord Chancellor's proposal, which principle his Council always opposed, and which was never accepted by the drug-trade, except by a section which agreed with us that it was a basis to build upon. One of the matters which Mr. Glyn-Jones entered the Council to promote was the interests of qualified dispensers; on this something has been accomplished, but the greatest service he has done to the Pharmaceutical Society has been in decentralising the Council work. During the exceptionally long and strong presidency of Mr. Carteighe circumstances forced the arrangement and control of all committee-work into the President's hands. With new men and methods the position became impossible, but by the alteration of a by-law the old condition that the President or Vice-President should be chairman of the committees was removed, and now members of the Council are appointed chairmen of committees. Mr. Glyn-Jones has latterly been chairman of the Law Committee, and much other active committee-work has fallen to him. An estimate of his services as a Council worker was given by his late colleagues on Wednesday. They alone are able to speak adequately on the inner work of the Council. Their tributes are a measure of the Society's loss, but the greater part of the loss is that of a catholic-minded and

fearless councillor. There is no question of the fact that his presence at "the Square" gave the trade greater confidence than before in the Society's appreciation of trade requirements, and the reflection that he can serve the drug-trade better off the Council than upon it is not assuring.

A Queer Settlement.

THE new Morphine Ordinance which has been enacted by the Legislative Council of the Straits Settlements incidentally travesties the time-honoured title "chemist and druggist." It was pointed out in these columns on October 29 that the Ordinance originated in consequence of the official opium-farmer (a company really) finding that he is paying too much to the Government for the privilege of selling opium. Partly with the view to making it right for the farmer, and also to prevent smuggling of the narcotic, and to control the abuse thereof, the new Ordinance has been introduced and passed. It consists of thirteen sections and a schedule. The first section names the title and the second contains interpretations of "morphine" ("morphia and all salts of morphine and any alkaloid or salt of an alkaloid of opium and any solution thereof"), "syringe" (for hypodermic injection), "medical practitioner" (anyone holding British, European, American, or Japanese diploma or degree approved by the Governor), "chemist and druggist," "licensed chemist and druggist," and "wharf." The titles which concern us are thus defined in the Ordinance:

"Chemist and druggist" means a chemist and druggist holding a certificate of competent skill and knowledge granted by the Principal Civil Medical Officer or by such legally constituted pharmaceutical authorities of any country as may to the Governor in Council seem fitting: provided always that no certificate shall be accepted which has been granted to the holder without examination by the Principal Civil Medical Officer or by one of these authorities or which he has obtained without first having received a systematic training as a chemist and druggist.

"Licensed chemist and druggist" means a chemist and druggist who is the holder of a licence to deal in morphine granted by the Principal Civil Medical Officer under the provisions of this Ordinance.

Singapore chemists were not aware until it was almost too late of the nature of these clauses, and all they could secure in the way of amendment was to change the word "qualified" in the original to "licensed" as finally passed. But this is still a prostitution of the title which St. Stephen's in 1868 gave distinct statutory value, and which it is advisable to reserve as far as possible throughout the Empire for those who keep open shop as chemists and druggists. The first clause recognises two groups of qualification for the title "chemist and druggist"—viz., those examined (1) by the Principal Civil Medical Officer or (2) by the legally constituted pharmaceutical authority of any country. The latter group includes chiefly those who are "chemists and druggists" of Great Britain, a title which carries weight in every part of the Empire, while there is nothing in the Ordinance to show what the former kind may be. The native "chemist and druggist" will, however, be of a distinctly lower grade—viz., a person who satisfies the P.C.M.O. that he can be entrusted with the sale of morphine. It would have been advisable, therefore, to have given this class a different title—say, "licensed morphine-dealer." We hope chemists in Singapore will not neglect any opportunity of amending this weak spot. The third section of the Ordinance requires medical practitioners to get licences to prescribe and deal in morphine, and chemists and druggists to get such licences for dealing in it. The fourth section deals with the importation and exportation of morphine, which can only be done under the written authority of the P.C.M.O.,

and various penalties are imposed by the fifth section in respect to that, as well as for keeping or using a house for the injection of morphine, or having more than 5 grains of morphine. The sixth to tenth sections also deal with the injection of morphine, chiefly with the view to locating the practice and so controlling or repressing it. The eleventh section gives the Governor powers to make rules binding upon licensed chemists and druggists; the twelfth gives power to reward informers, and the thirteenth repeals the 1903 Ordinance. Under Section 11 the following rules were gazetted on October 17 :

All chemists and druggists are required to keep the following books relating to the sale and purchase by them of morphine :

- (a) Stock-book (in Form A in the Schedule hereto) of morphine and other alkaloids of opium imported or purchased.
- (b) Daily register (in Form B in the Schedule hereto) of morphine and other alkaloids of opium sold or otherwise expended each day.

All chemists and druggists are required to furnish to the Principal Civil Medical Officer not later than the fifth of each month a return of the entries made in the stock-book (A) of the purchase and sale of morphine effected during the previous month.

E. L. BROCKMAN,

Clerk of Councils.

Council Chamber,
Singapore, October 7, 1904.

A is a form for stock-book of morphine and other alkaloids of opium for the month of —, and must show (1) date, (2) stock in hand and receipts, (3) name of vendor or firm, (4) place from which imported, (5) expended, and (6) remarks.

B is a register of morphine and other alkaloids of opium expended daily, showing (1) date, (2) description of drug, (3) quantity, (4) name of purchaser, (5) reference number of prescription, and (6) remarks.

These rules show that the Singapore authorities are somewhat careless. The section permits rules to be prescribed for "licensed chemists and druggists," but the rules say "all chemists and druggists." Which is to be operative? Then "licensed medical practitioners" may sell morphine, and obviously if they are not controlled as rigidly as "licensed chemists and druggists," there may be leaks. But there is no provision in the Ordinance to impose similar conditions upon them!

The Bitten Biting.

The series of actions under Section 17 of the Pharmacy Act against Bradford chemists and druggists is a pretty little comedy with a grave side to it. The actions are taken by Mr. Leggatt, a drug-vendor, of Liverpool, who on this occasion figures as the "Registrar of the Drug-stores Association." Perhaps that will impress the Court. The summonses are in respect to the sale of a well-known nit-ointment, which the retailers are said to have sold contrary to the provisions of Section 17 in so far as the purchasers were unknown to the sellers. It is presumed that the ointment contains a poisonous vegetable alkaloid, and this may have led this "Registrar" to take proceedings on the ground that the preparation comes within Part I. of the Schedule. This will be for the Court to determine. We do not for the present propose to say more about the matter, except that there is a sound defence, and that it is in the hands of the Chemists' Defence Association, Ltd. The cases were to have been called on Wednesday, December 7, but have been postponed at the request of the prosecution, and will be heard after Christmas.

Russian, English, and American Pharmacies.

O, wad some power the giftie gie us
Tae see oorsels as ithers see us.

We have it now, and Professor A. V. Pell, a Russian, is the power. In a lecture he has just delivered before the St. Petersburg Pharmaceutical Society he claimed that

Russian pharmacies are the best-equipped and best-stocked in the world; adding that only recently, owing to the want of high schools in Russia, has the scientific education of Russian pharmacists fallen behind that of the pharmacists of France and Germany. He declared that

the very worst pharmacies in Europe are the English ones, and that the English physicians have so little confidence in the local chemists that they supply medicines to their patients direct, and the preparation of these medicines they confide to their servants, their chamber-maids, lackeys, and so on.

He added further, for the delectation of his hearers,

that the statistics of poisoning in England by means of medical ingredients illustrate in bright colours what a danger the people run from this class of medical attention.

Professor Pell was equally flattering to the United States pharmacies, which he described as occupying

an exceedingly low level. They are not pharmacies, but shops dealing in various drinks, such as soda-water, milk, whisky, etc., among which could be found some medical ingredients of an altogether suspicious nature; and the medicines, quite unequal to their pretensions, are sold at fabulous prices, being two or three times as dear as in Russia. These dealers generally have no special knowledge, which the Government on its part does not exact. The American only troubles about business requiring large capital and yielding large profits.

All this is so delicious that we hesitate to spoil it by comment; but the next time Professor Pell passes through London if he calls at 42 Cannon Street we shall endeavour to show him the errors of his imagination.

Ki g spiel.

The spectacle now presented of capitulation on the company question, and the mild rush of chemists' associations in support of the compromise policy has created surprise in the circles of pharmaceutical activity chiefly responsible for the Pharmacy Bill. We suspect that in this matter the Pharmaceutical Council feel that they have been "dished," and the net result of the proposed compromise is to create an attitude of indifference about the whole Bill. Associations do not realise the fact that it was not until Clause 7 was formulated that the Council really began to move boldly and persistently for legislation on the company question. It will be impossible to work up equal energy for the Government view, which the President of the Society has put forward as an alternative, and to which "Xrayser" so pertinently refers on a previous page. Some of the acquiescence in the *volte face* is due to the notion that the Bill does not deal with the use of titles by companies. This is quite erroneous. Clause 7 provides that companies may not keep open shop for retailing, dispensing, or compounding poisons or medical preparations unless the company is managed by one or more registered persons—i.e., pharmaceutical chemists or chemists and druggists—who are directors of the company. There is not a word in the whole Bill which gives companies authority to use the title "pharmaceutical chemist," or "chemist and druggist," but by Clause 11 any act or omission which would be an offence under the Pharmacy Acts, 1852 and 1868, if committed by a person (except selling or keeping open shop for selling poison by an unregistered person) will be an offence if committed by a company, firm, copartnership, or body of persons. As the act of using the title is an offence by an unregistered person, it follows under Clause 11 that it would be an offence for a company to use it. This provision is strongly objected to by the drug companies, and we presume it also will be cast into the refining crucible, along with much else that is in the Bill. The Army and Navy Stores and the Civil Service Stores are at the back of the compromise on Clause 7. It seriously touched them, and the rest they are indifferent about; but not so the drug companies with

multitudinous shops and titles. They and the stores are associated together for common action against the Bill, and since they have secured the capitulation of the principal redoubt with the leading general, they will attack the rest and destroy them in detail. This frequently happens in politics as well as in warfare, and it is the problem which the Pharmaceutical Council have to face when they take up the Bill again for introduction next Session.

Personalities.

MR. A. NORMAN HIRST, Ph.C., Bell Scholar, 1901, has passed the final examination for B.Sc.Lond.

MR. H. W. THOMAS has been appointed as dispenser by the Guardians of the Parish of Liverpool.

MR. A. E. EVANS, chemist and druggist, Brynmawr, has been elected an alderman of the Breconshire County Council.

MR. W. H. SIMMONS, of the Vinolia Co.'s laboratories, was among the successful candidates in the recent London B.Sc. examination.

MISS ELSIE SEVILLE HOOPER, Ph.C., Redwood and Burroughs scholar, at present working in the Pharmaceutical Society's research laboratory, has just obtained B.Sc. Lond.

MR. FRED REYNOLDS has characteristically illustrated a card programme of a smoking-concert recently given in the School of Medicine of the University of Leeds, and the "Lancet" of December 3 is so charmed by it that it describes him as a second George Cruikshank.

MR. DAVID REID, of the firm of Broom & Reid, chemists and druggists, Queen Street, Exeter, presided last week over the annual dinner of the Exeter and District Caledonian Society, of which he is the President for the year.

ON Saturday, December 3, Messrs. Mettenheimer & Simon, druggists, Frankfort-on-the-Main, celebrated the golden jubilee of Mr. Jean Hottes, and the silver jubilees of Messrs. Paul Herwig and Georg Vaupel, all connected with the firm.

MR. W. S. GLYN-JONES, Secretary of the P.A.T.A., addressed a meeting of the committee of the Newsagents', Booksellers', and Stationers' National Union last week on "what chemists have done to stop cutting." The Union is likely to take the matter up in a practical way.

MR. CHARLES ALEXANDER HILL, F.I.C., F.C.S., one of the principals of Messrs. Davy Hill & Co., wholesale drug-

gists, 64 Park Street, Southwark, S.E., has just done what we have not had hitherto to record of a wholesaler—viz., graduated as a Bachelor of Science at the London University. Mr. Hill is a Square man, and a grandson of one of the founders of the Pharmaceutical Society—the late Mr. A. S. Hill, whose son, Mr. A. Bowdler Hill, retired from active participation in the business on December 31, 1901, in favour of his son (representing the third generation in the business) Mr. C. A. Hill, who passed the Major examination in 1896.

Mr. Hill also studied at King's College and St. Thomas's Hospital, and in 1895 passed the Institute of Chemistry Final examination, as well as the Intermediate B.Sc., being in the latter second in the first-class honours list for chemistry. Since then and the Major, the calls of business, especially during the Boer war, have left Mr. Hill little time for academic pursuits, but he has kept well in touch with chemical progress, and the B.Sc. is, we take it, one of the results, for his success is due to private study.

SIR WILLIAM RAMSAY, K.C.B., has been selected by the Paris "Journal" for the Nobel Prize in the Physical and Chemical Sciences Section. A report from Stockholm is to the effect that the Physics prize will go to Lord Rayleigh, and the Chemistry prize to Sir William Ramsay.

At the Chemists' Assistants' Association's Cinderella last week Mr. A. R. Arrowsmith acted as secretary and not as M.C., the latter duties being solely discharged by Mr. C. W. Martin (Messrs. S. Maw, Son & Sons) and Mr. A. H. Solomon (Messrs. Allen & Hanburys, Ltd.).

SIR GEORGE WATT, the Editor of the "Dictionary of Indian Economic Products," is working on the new edition at Kew. It will be in two volumes. Sir W. Thiselton Dyer is Chairman of the committee, the other members being Mr. T. W. Holderness (Secretary of the Revenue and Statistics Department, India Office), Professor Wyndham R. Dunstan, and Mr. J. S. Gamble.

MR. JESSE BOOT was called a chemist by the "Daily Mail," whose knowledge of pharmacy law was apparently not deep enough to pierce the mysteries of "Boots, Cash Chemists, Ltd." Mr. Boot has put the "Mail" right, saying: "I have never professed to be [a chemist], only a progressive business man. I direct the policy of our companies, but the purchase of drugs and the sale of them in all our branches are conducted by duly qualified chemists of the highest standing."

THE DRUG CLUB.

THIS, the most exclusive drug-trade body in Great Britain, held its annual meeting at the Albion Hotel, Aldersgate Street, London, E.C., on Tuesday, December 6. The retiring President, Mr. Charles Umney, F.I.C., F.C.S., presided

in the afternoon, when various business matters affecting the interests of the members were discussed, and officers for the ensuing year were elected. These are: President, Mr. Arnold Baiss (Baiss Brothers & Stevenson, Ltd.); Vice-President, Mr. Ralph K. Harvey (Barron, Harveys & Co.); Secretary (re-elected), Mr. J. C. Umney (Wright, Layman & Umney, Ltd.). The new President, whose portrait we give, is the head of the business with which his name is associated. His father (Mr. William Arnold Baiss) and uncle (Mr. James Baiss)



were elected members of the Drug Club in 1858, five years after they started business together. Mr. Baiss was Vice-President of the Club during the past year. He and Mr. Harvey (whose house's connection with the Club is also of the longest) inaugurated their duties in the evening, when the members dined together in the Albion—famous for its cuisine and wines.

THE IMPORT OF EVERY MEDICINAL SPECIALITY into Spain is forbidden unless it has been sanctioned by the Royal Academy of Medicine at Madrid. If admitted, the formula has to be declared. It is suggested that the foreign manufacturer who applies for the entrance of his speciality must, in addition to furnishing proof that he is qualified by the laws of his country to carry on a pharmacy, disclose the formula, state the therapeutic qualifications, and send a fair sample of the speciality. He must also make an advance payment of 5,000 pesetas. The Academy and the Pharmaceutical College at Madrid analyse the preparation, compound it from the formula given, and test its therapeutic value in the hospitals. To the public it may only be sold in the home pharmacies.

Winter Session.

Association Ballad.

THE PURPOSE.

*The men, their aims, their daily irk;
Their troubles, trials, thoughts, and views
On things politic, foes that lurk
In friendly guise, but treach'rous work—
These be the burden of our Muse.*

XLVIII. LONDON (PHARMACY CLUB).

[This club dines monthly at the Café Royal. Councillors, ex-Councillors, and Society officials only are eligible for election.]

Sergeant Brimmidge sings:—

As month by month our strenuous task
We grapple with unflinching loyalty;
Our hearts are light; anon we'll bask
In beams of glorious Café Royalty.
Our wearied brains in sweet repose
Disdain desire for Bills or Botany,
Or chemic problems; no one knows
How hard, how cheerless our monotony.
I think it far from comic-al
Fal la la la, fal la la la,
The ways that pharmacists contrive
Fal la la la la,
To greet with grin sardonic-al,
Amusement seeming to derive,
Our brave attempts to roll the ball
By methods quite conservat-ive,
Fal la la.

Our Councillors demure and chaste
Are filled with clear-eyed perspicuity;
Our orators ne'er reckless waste
Their words in painful ambiguity.
Our Staff, with sweat of brow, from morn
Till dewy eve, with breathless loyalty,
Shear student sheep till closely shorn:
Due homage to their Café Royalty.
No methods lackadaisic-al,
Fal la la la, fal la la la,
However pharmacists contrive
Fal la la la la,
Can change the methods comic-al
By which our incomes we derive,
With salaries we are liberal,
With work we're quite conservat-ive,
Fal la la.

Examiners whose intellects
Are swelled with knowledge in fecundity,
Just once a month, quite freely mix
With those less gifted in profundity:
Together jeering at the seum,
We crack stale jokes with much hilarity,
And smile superior at the dumb,
Dull driven pack—with regularity.
We think it very comic-al,
Fal la la la, fal la la la,
And thank our stars that we're alive,
Fal la la la la.
And that we have the wherewithal
To dine so sumptuously and thrive,
While those who pay to keep the ball
A-rolling are conservat-ive.
Fal la la la.

Federation of Local Pharmaceutical Associations.

MR. W. WATSON-WILL, Hon. Treasurer and Secretary, has this week sent a complete report of the tenth annual meeting, held in Sheffield, to each chemists' association. In the covering letter he draws attention to the Weights and Measures (Metric System) Bill which will come before Parliament next Session. His object in doing this is to get the subject considered by the Associations, as well as the following:

- (a) Suggestion as to how more time can be given to Federation business.
- (b) The matter of "breaking bulk."
- (c) The Shop-hours Act.
- (d) The Pharmacy Bill.
- (e) Provincial pharmaceutical education.

In prefatory remarks, Mr. Watson-Will, referring to "breaking bulk," asks that resolutions be sent to the

Executive, as the opinion at the Sheffield meeting was that the practice is inimical to the interests of chemists. Appended to the report are a copy of the memorial on the C.O.D. system sent to the Postmaster-General by the Executive, and of his reply.

Wakefield Chemists' Association.

AN ordinary monthly meeting was held on Tuesday, December 6, at the Victoria Temperance Hotel, Wakefield. There was only a moderate attendance, presided over by Mr. T. C. Whaley (President). The Shop-hours Act was discussed, and it was decided to let things remain as they are, as the hours in Wakefield are reasonable enough to meet the views of most of the members. It was decided to divide the Association's twenty-five votes in the Benevolent Election between Brodribb, Jefferson, Miller, and Smith.

Dover Chemists' Association.

THE annual meeting was held at the residence of the President, Mr. Peake, J.P., on November 26, the President in the chair. The accounts were presented by the Secretary and Treasurer (Mr. Earle), and showed a balance in hand. The President and Secretary were re-elected. A discussion on the Shop-hours Act ensued and various suggestions were made as to the course of action to be adopted if the town took up the movement. Arrangements were made to further the formation of a South-Eastern Association of Chemists.

Manchester and North of England Optical Society.

THE third meeting of the session was held at the Albion Hotel, Manchester, on December 7, Mr. J. C. Kidd in the chair. The first part of the meeting was taken up by discussion on difficult cases of disturbed vision met with in the experience of members present. A paper was afterwards read on "Observations on Procedure in Refraction-work," by Mr. E. Beaumont, F.S.M.C., Lindley.

Reading Chemists' Association.

A MEETING was held at Reading on Thursday, December 1, Mr. E. Butler (President) in the chair. In accordance with the plan decided upon of continuing the work of last session, by urging the manufacturers of extremely cut articles to join the P.A.T.A., a discussion took place as to the best method of procedure. As before, six articles were selected, upon which the efforts of the Association are to be concentrated, and it was decided to write to the other Associations, asking them to co-operate. A discussion also took place regarding the desirability of fixing the prices charged locally for photographic work.

Torquay Chemists' Association.

A MEETING of this Association was held at the Pavilion Hotel, Torquay, on December 1, there being present Mr. Rawling (President), Mr. Bourne (Hon. Sec.), Mr. Quant (Hon. Treasurer), also Messrs. Horner, Ness, Newlyn, and Jefferson. Mr. Horner read a paper upon

THE PHARMACY BILL.

He said the clause dealing with the registration of shops would enable the Society to see if the registered manager at any shop is a qualified man and in *bona fide* conduct of the business. The application for registration of each shop must be made by the owner—not the manager of the branch. The building must be separately rated to the poor, and the premises must be the shop or place where dispensing or retailing of poisons is carried on. This will prevent the sale of weed-killers, etc., by unqualified retailers through the medium of qualified chemists. Clause 7, which is modified in favour of one qualified director, came in for some strong criticism, it being considered that to a great extent it is giving way to the opposition. Mr. Horner considered that in its present form it is of no practical use to the trade. Mr. Horner briefly summarised

the points of greatest importance as (1) registration of shops, (2) control of dispensing, and (3) evidence of training. It appeared to him that the Society are endeavouring to leaven the ranks of pharmacy with highly trained men of university and similar standard. A discussion ensued, and eventually Mr. Rawling proposed that

Considering the proposed absurd alteration of Clause 7 it is the opinion of this meeting that it should be deleted from the Bill.

This was seconded by Mr. Bourne and carried.

Blackpool Chemists' Association.

A MEETING was held at the Palatine Hotel, Blackpool, on Friday, December 2, Mr. C. H. Turver (President) in the chair.

The Whist-drive.—The Secretary (Mr. J. Sankey) reported that the whist-drive on November 17 showed a balance to the good of 2*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.* The success had prompted Mr. Carter to promise two prizes if the committee promoted another drive; the Secretary hoped chemists would provide the other prizes, and so benefit the Benevolent Fund. On the motion of the President, a vote of thanks to the ladies, without whose help the drive could not have been so successful, was agreed to.

Christmas and New Year Closing.—Mr. Laurie proposed the chemists open as on Sundays on December 26 and 27, and on January 2.

The Annual Dinner was fixed to be held early in January.

Mr. Boothroyd promised to read a paper on some pharmaceutical topic at the next monthly meeting, on January 6.

Mr. Turver reported that a customer had a prescription dispensed for hair-lotion containing jaborandi and pilocarpine. After using some time, the prescription was changed to carbolic and acetic acids. A few applications of the latter turned the hair yellow. This, the meeting thought, was due to the action of the acid on the pilocarpine.

Dewsbury Chemists' Association.

MR. J. RHODES (President) presided over a fairly attended meeting of the above Association on Monday evening. There was little business to transact, and after this had been dealt with Mr. R. Broadhead read a paper on the titles question. In this he referred at some length to the President's reply to the letter from the Bradford Association. That reply, said Mr. Broadhead, was practically a quotation from Mr. MacEwan's paper at Dundee in 1902. Except the allusion to the taking of counsel's opinion, there was not a word in it that was not available twenty years ago. The Council had no further knowledge than they had in 1902. If they had, why was it not made known? The question of the titles had never been decided. They were told counsel's opinion had been taken, but what they wanted was a judicial decision, and not opinions.

The Chairman thought Mr. Broadhead's views were well matured and convincing. Messrs. J. Day, G. N. Guttridge, and A. B. Barker also approved of the views expounded; and Mr. Broadhead, in the course of his reply, said if titles were restricted, as it is intended they should be under the 1868 Act, the name of the qualified man would have to be put on the labels in addition to the address. The new Bill, he added, does not reserve the titles. He proceeded to refer again to the House of Lords judgment in 1890, when Mr. Gledhill pointed out that the Judge had decided that the section relating to the keeping open of a shop for the sale of poisons did not apply to companies. Mr. Broadhead said what he desired was to bring stores into line with individuals, and make them put the name of the qualified man on the label. Mr. Gledhill replied that the new Bill provides for that, and also that the name of the qualified man shall be put over the shop. The Chairman thought the new Bill would strengthen their hands. Mr. Day said if they depended on this they would be depending on a broken reed. Mr. Broadhead was thanked for his paper.

Irish Chemists' Assistants' and Apprentices' Association.

ON December 2, the usual weekly meeting of this Association was held at 33 Lower Sackville Street, Dublin, the

President (Mr. Edgar B. Applin) in the chair. There was a good attendance. Routine business having been transacted, a debate on

THE INTRINSIC VALUE OF THE ASSISTANT QUALIFICATION was opened by the Chairman, who said the question of the relative worth of the Irish *versus* the English qualification was a vexed one in Dublin, and as each had its supporters a discussion on the respective merits of the diplomas might prove useful to the craft in general.

Mr. Murphy said the assistants' diploma of the Apothecaries' Hall of Ireland is so closely allied to that of the Society of Apothecaries, London, that he preferred to ignore it and confine himself to the one issued by the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland. The most natural thing for an embryo pharmaceutical chemist is to go in for the licence of his own Society, as the more highly sounding name of an apothecary's assistant gives no compensating advantage. The Pharmaceutical Society has stood in the past by its assistants and licentiates and would, he believed, continue to do so.

Mr. Kelly said the Pharmaceutical Society's licence for assistants is not only local but parochial in its utility. The holder is shut out from public appointments of all kinds, he cannot go to England much less abroad with any hope of being able to earn his living. In Dublin the assistant of the Hall is an assistant to an apothecary who is qualified to practise medicine and surgery, and is *de facto* a professional man. The assistant is stimulated by example and precept to prepare himself for the time when he, too, will be an apothecary. As an assistant, whether in England or Ireland, his prospects are comparatively good, and openings exist which are denied to the pharmaceutical assistant.

Mr. Creed preferred the pharmaceutical qualification, but any doubt might be solved by the assistant qualifying in both schools.

Mr. Moore spoke at some length in favour of the apothecary's assistant.

A vote on the debate was taken, and, the numbers being equally divided, the Chairman said he preferred not to exercise his right to a casting-vote, and declared the discussion a draw.

Halifax Chemists' Association.

A MEETING was held on Tuesday evening, December 6, Mr. C. Fielding (President) in the Chair. Among those present were Messrs. H. Hebden (Secretary), Smithies (Elland), T. Briggs (Sowerby Bridge), B. Swire, J. Swire, W. S. Thompson, W. Fielding Hodgson and Woodward. After the transaction of miscellaneous business of local interest the President opened a debate on

RETALIATION BY RETAIL PHARMACISTS.

He discussed the subject under three heads—namely, (1) dealing with commercial retaliation, (2) retaliation applied to the standardisation of pharmaceutical representatives, and (3) retaliation in purification of the register. He was astonished to find that recently their enemies had forestalled them in the adoption of retaliatory measures. For instance, Mr. Leggatt, of Liverpool, was responsible for getting the Excise authorities to recognise certain unqualified men as legitimate drug-vendors and exempted from the stamping of "known, admitted, and approved remedies" provided the vendor had served an apprenticeship under a duly qualified chemist. At Bradford five prosecutions for improperly selling "veratrine" are impending; this move alone ought surely to laugh out of existence the "gospel of impotence" which some had recently preached. Mr. Fielding regarded "commercial retaliation" as only a sort of pharmaceutical strike, or a retailers' blockade of unprofitable proprietary articles. He suggested that all chemists of a town or district might decide on one article as suitable for attack and agree to transfer for a certain period—say, one month—to a central depot. Very noisy firms who shout about chemists "substituting" might be marked out, and a note made of firms who pretend that chemists do not want a profit of 15 per cent. on an article that replaces an ordinary prescription. Regarding "standardisation of representatives" he said divisional secretaries ought to be carefully selected. Men connected with wholesale houses are un-

suitable as representatives : it is too delicate a position for their safety. As to the purification of the register, he suggested, among other things, the removal of names covering any "title-stealing" company.

After some remarks from the Secretary, Mr. W. S. Thompson said he should like to hear a discussion on the blocking of unprofitable articles. He quite agreed on the importance of the subject, but except as regards articles containing poisons they could not hope to carry out the blockade unless they joined with the grocers. They must join the grocers before they could carry it out successfully. Mr. T. Briggs agreed. Mr. Smithies (Elland), as a substitutor, advocated that practice in preference to blocking. Mr. Swire, jun., suggested that they must fraternise more with the medical men and get them to their meetings. He did not approve of the President's idea with regard to stocking proprietary articles, for this reason : the owners of these had been at the expense of bringing out their articles, and had been at enormous expense in advertising them, and were entitled to the position they had created. Let them take two instances—the "emulsions" (Scott's and Angiers'). The latter was a striking illustration of his point; not only that the introducers of these patent medicines, etc., were entitled to have their items stocked, but that the very fact that they created a market for that kind of specific was a commercial benefit to the druggist. (Hear, hear.) Before Angiers' petroleum emulsion came to the front and created a demand there was no public call for it, and it was the same with Dinneford's magnesia and other specific items. Mr. T. Briggs and Mr. Hebden strongly supported the idea of fraternising more with the medical men. The discussion closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

Cambridge Pharmaceutical Association.

A MEETING was held on Thursday evening, December 1, at the residence of Mr. E. H. Church, St. Andrew's Street. The President (Mr. E. S. Peck), the Secretary (Mr. B. S. Campkin), the Mayor of Cambridge (Mr. A. S. Campkin), and Messrs. H. F. Cook, E. H. Church, J. Evans, C. Greensmith, E. W. Moss, and J. Palmer were present. Mr. Cook read a paper entitled

THE ORGANISING SECRETARY.

The author considered the appointment would be a step in the right direction. The Chairman, following, said the present machinery (local secretaries, etc.) is adequate for the purpose, and he discussed the relations between the Pharmaceutical Council and local associations, suggesting that the latter should be visited once a year. Mr. A. S. Campkin rather favoured the idea of an organising secretary. The following resolution was agreed to *nem. con.*, and was ordered to be forwarded to the Council :

That, with reference to the present position of pharmacy, this meeting is of opinion that it is advisable that systematic visits should be paid to the various districts throughout the country by members of the Council, or someone appointed on their behalf.

Mr. Evans read a short paper on

THE SHOP-HOURS ACT.

In this the author described the provisions of the Act and how they are to be brought into force. Not the least business affected by the measure is that of the "poor, unfortunate chemists," who are left out in the cold. There is nothing in the Bill to compel them to close, or, rather, no order could be made to compel them to close, even although every chemist in the district desired to take advantage of the law. In Lord Avebury's Shop-hours Bill (1901) there was a clause that chemists' shops should come within the provision as to early closing, but that chemists should not be liable to penalties for supplying medicine, drugs, and medical and surgical appliances after the closing-hour. The Editor of the CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST caused a copy of Lord Avebury's Bill to be sent for discussion to sixty-two associations of chemists and druggists throughout Great Britain and Ireland, with questions bearing on that Bill, and particularly on the clause which affected the business of chemists. He received fifty-two replies (among others the Cambridge Pharmaceutical Association) confirming Lord Avebury's clause, and, armed with these, he gave evidence before the Select Committee that it was the almost unanimous wish of chemists to be included in

the Bill. That Bill never became law, and in its stead they had Mr. Cochrane's Bill, which was of no use to chemists, for the reason that the clause affecting them was not inserted. The result is that any early-closing order will apply to them only in respect of articles which are not medicines or medical or surgical appliances. The shop would be open for business in medicines and medical and surgical appliances. What are these? At one of the Select Committee inquiries it was practically held that eau de Cologne is a medical appliance, but whether a bottle of perfume would come under the same heading is an open question. Mr. Evans gave other instances of hypothetical difficulties, and remarked that it remained to be seen whether the chemists of the town would fall into line with other tradesmen.

The President could not see that the enforcement of the Act in Cambridge would be of much benefit to chemists. Mr. A. S. Campkin thought chemists would be placed in a very invidious position under the present permissive Act. Mr. Evans moved

That should the Shop-hours Act be put into force in Cambridge, chemists should avail themselves of the advantages it affords.

Mr. Cook seconded the resolution, and it was carried by six votes against two.

ANOTHER MEETING

was convened at the Botany School, Pembroke Street, on Wednesday evening, December 7, when Dr. Marshall Ward delivered a lecture somewhat in the nature of an introduction to the study of botany. Previously the new museum of botanical specimens was open for inspection. Dr. Ward remarked that there could be little doubt that early man must have turned his attention very soon to plants. Among the ancients such men as Galen, Aristotle, and Pliny described the properties of plants, and their writings were unearthed and studied in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries A.D. by men such as William Turner. Pharmacology antedated botany, therefore he said to the members of the Association that their ancestors were the first botanists in a literary sense. Though they could not rely on the herb-books, they contained a certain amount of very interesting information, and they might look on the herbalists as the fathers of their science. If they investigated the extent of the knowledge of pharmacology in Japan, India, and the East generally they would find that many of the "discoveries" which had recently been made in Europe were perfectly well known to those old Oriental students. On the motion of the President (Mr. E. Saville Peck, M.A.), seconded by Mr. H. Cook, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded Dr. Ward. Some valuable ancient herb books were then inspected.

Thames Valley Chemists' Association.

A GENERAL MEETING of the members of this Association was held at the Kingston Hotel, Kingston-on-Thames, on December 7, Mr. C. J. Palmer (President) occupying the chair. There were also present Messrs. A. Higgs, J.P., J. W. Huddars, C. J. G. Bunker, W. Woolcock, H. Durbin, J. Wyatt, T. Turner, J. Parrott, H. Clement, Kent, F. T. Bowen, J. Doe, and F. Harvey (Hon. Secretary).

C.O.D.

The Hon. Secretary announced the receipt of a letter from the Secretary to the G.P.O. acknowledging a resolution passed by the Association adverse to the introduction of the C.O.D. system.

The Chairman then introduced Mr. T. E. Wallis, B.Sc., A.I.C., Ph.C., to read a paper on

THE PRACTICE OF PROFESSIONAL PHARMACY.

Mr. Wallis said the practice of professional pharmacy does not always seem to be very enthusiastically exercised by the members of the profession. It is not an easy matter to assign an exact reason for this lack of interest in the more scientific aspect of their calling, and probably the result is due to several causes. Some of the older pharmacists excuse their neglect of this by stating that they have not had the opportunity for gaining the necessary scientific knowledge, but such an excuse would not apply to the younger generation, who have all had a training sufficient

to enable them to pass their Minor examination, and during their student-days have obtained a grounding in chemistry and botany, which should supply the foundation upon which a pharmacist in business can build a reputation as a professional man of scientific attainments. One of the hindrances to the rapid development of the professional side of pharmacy is to be found in the attitude frequently displayed by students towards their work for the Society's examinations. They looked upon it as wasting time in acquiring useless scientific knowledge before they could open for themselves a business that would be a paying concern, and for the management of which scientific studies would be quite useless. Such men are incapable of appreciating the scientific aspect of pharmacy, or of helping to raise the professional status of the craft. Other men find that business affairs are so pressing that lack of time prevents them from using their knowledge to advantage, and rather than be put to the expense of buying the small amount of apparatus necessary for testing the quality of the goods they sell, they preferred to trust their reputations to the good offices of wholesale dealers who would guarantee their preparations as genuine, and would undertake at a fixed rate to perform any analyses which they might be asked to do for their customers. A pharmacist working on those lines could not claim to be considered as a member of a profession. He is simply a trader, and cannot hope to command the esteem of his townspeople. Even from a purely business standpoint it would not be wise to despise a scientific training, for opportunities constantly arise in any ordinary business for the use of carefully acquired scientific knowledge. If pharmacists are truly professional men and took a real interest in their goods and in testing their purity, they would cease to fear the advent of the inspector under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, for the substances which could be taken for examination by an inspector are fairly limited in number, and are, moreover, those whose purity is most easily controlled by fairly simple methods of testing. Among the articles most commonly taken for analysis are camphorated oil, dilute acetic acid, oil of almonds, sweet spirit of nitre, magnesia, precipitated sulphur, lime-water, tincture of rhubarb, compound liquorice powder, seidlitz powders, a simple prescription containing potassium iodide, and so on. The apparatus needed for the examination of all these substances is very simple and inexpensive. Mr. Wallis mentioned a number of works that would be useful to the analytical chemist, among them "Practical Methods of Urine-analysis," published by THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST. He also gave practical illustrations of various modes of analysis.

DISCUSSION.

Mr. Woolcock said that if through no fault of their own chemists found themselves hauled up in court to explain why such-and-such a thing does not conform with the Pharmacopœia, it is a good thing not to have to take the whole risk of the prosecution on themselves, but to be able to turn to an association which would see that they got fair treatment. They knew that many chemists were branded as dishonest tradespeople because they had not had a sufficient defence to place before the Court.

Mr. Bunker hoped the paper would be an incentive to chemists to cultivate more than they did the analytical part of their business, so that they might be able to show to their friends that they took a real interest in their business.

Mr. Wyatt thought it would be well if a little more practical knowledge were imported into the lives of chemists with regard to the things of general commerce. Too much attention, he thought, is given to the abstruse, and too little to the things of everyday requirements.

Mr. Higgs also spoke, and, referring to prosecutions where boric acid is present in milk to an injurious extent, asked the lecturer whether boric acid is really a preservative.

Mr. Wallis, replying, said there is always boric acid in milk, and if unduly present it is injurious, particularly to children. But it is very difficult to estimate the quantity of boric acid in milk.

A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Wallis, and the Chairman referred to the efforts that are being made to get an annuitant elected to the Benevolent Fund.

Mr. Bunker promised to read a paper on "Optics" at a

subsequent meeting, and Mr. Wyatt agreed to read one on the subject of wholesale manufacture.

A discussion on the Shop-hours Act, which was on the agenda, was adjourned until the next meeting.

Edinburgh Chemists', Assistants', and Apprentices' Association.

A MEETING was held at 36 York Place, Edinburgh, on Wednesday, November 30, at 9.15 p.m., Mr. Archibald Currie in the chair.

The first paper was entitled

NOTES ON PRESCRIPTIONS,

By H. R. Nightingale.

The author first discussed the following prescription:

| | | | | |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Tr. quin. ammon. | ... | ... | ... | 3ij. |
| Aquam ad | ... | ... | ... | 3iv. |

M.

After twelve hours, and quite possibly less, the precipitate settles to the bottom of the bottle and refuses to shake up. As the mixture is intended to last more than one day this is unsatisfactory. The addition of syrup makes matters worse, the precipitate becoming stringy. One drachm of acacia mucilage suspends the precipitate, but 2 grains of tragacanth is the most satisfactory suspending agent to use. The next prescription was:

| | | | | |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|--------|
| Ichthyol. | ... | ... | ... | gr. v. |
| Sodii bicarb. | ... | ... | ... | gr. v. |

Ft. pulv. sec. artem. Mitte xij.

In dispensing this prescription half as much sugar of milk was added to the ichthyol and evaporated with great care in a water-bath. The sodium bicarbonate was next added, and the weight made up with more sugar of milk. The author did not agree with this method, and suggested the use of an absorbent powder capable of taking up the ichthyol. A third prescription was:

| | | | | |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|---------|
| Phenacetin. | ... | ... | ... | gr. x. |
| Caffein. cit. | ... | ... | ... | gr. ij. |
| Sodii salicyl. | ... | ... | ... | gr. v. |

Ft. pulv. tales vj.

This was dispensed by a firm in two separate powders. Why? The author showed a powder made up a month ago which showed not the slightest sign of deliquescence or chemical action.

A NOTE ON COMPOUND GALBANUM PILL,

by David A. Young, was next read. This pill has been used for over 200 years, but the first official mention of it is in Quincy's Dispensary (1726). The formula contained over a hundred ingredients. It was in the London Pharmacopœia of 1720 under the name "pilula gummosa." As time has gone on, the formula has been much simplified. In the Dublin Pharmacopœia, 1826, the pill contained galbanum, myrrh, sagapenum, and asafetida, which was the same as the London Pharmacopœia of 1836, except as to excipient. In the 1851 P.L. soft soap was introduced with the intention of keeping the pills soft. The pills were not official in the Edinburgh and Dublin Pharmacopœias at that time. The Edinburgh pill, while official, was composed of 3 parts each galbanum, asafetida, and myrrh, and 4 parts confection of roses. The B.P. 1864 pill contained equal parts galbanum, asafetida, and myrrh, with treacle as excipient. These were the first official pills made by heat. Those of the 1867 B.P. and the 1885 B.P. were the same. Before this Association some years ago glycerin as an excipient was said to be better than treacle. The B.P. 1898 uses syrup of glucose, but uses heat, so that the volatile oils of asafetida and galbanum are to a great extent driven off. The amount of heat to be used is not limited either. If the mass be taken off the water-bath when just uniform or semi-liquid (and if the pills are to be of any value at all, it should be taken off then), the pills made from this mass go flat in five or six hours. Squire recommends that the myrrh should be powdered, mixed with the galbanum and asafetida, and all three heated on a water-bath by themselves, then chilled by artificial means and mixed with one-sixth weight of light carbonate of magnesia, which then can be kept as a stock powder and made into pills when required with a drop or two of 60-per-cent. alcohol. The pills made thus keep well, but again heating is objectionable, as the mass must be

heated for a fairly long time to make it brittle enough to powder. These pills, however, disintegrate well enough. The author tried cane sugar, starch, and kaolin in place of glucose, and found kaolin the most successful. Using B.P. quantities of asafetida, galbanum, and myrrh, and substituting kaolin for the glucose, powdering the myrrh, and mixing the kaolin with the galbanum and asafetida, a mass is obtained with some work which is very nice and is easily rolled out into pills which keep their shape. The trituration employed so softens the gums that when massed the whole is in a tough plastic condition. These pills can be made much more quickly than the B.P. ones. With large quantities a slightly warmed mortar would be a help. In the

DISCUSSION

Messrs. Ackroyd, Currie, Hill, Hutcheon, McEwan, Murray, Nightingale, Rowland, Thomson, and Young took part. It was proposed that simple aerated water should be suggested to a doctor who wishes to dilute ammoniated tincture of quinine, also that lime-juice is a good vehicle. [?—EDITOR.] It was mentioned that sodium ichthylol may be used where evaporation is necessary, and that ichthylol tablets may be used. Ichthylol quickly dries to a varnish when spread out on a slab, and can then be used for such a powder. It was the unanimous opinion that the dispenser of the phenacetin prescription had made a mistake, probably thinking he was dealing with antipyrin or phenazone.

Mr. David Murray read a paper on the retrospect and

PROSPECT OF PHARMACY.

In concluding his thoughtful observations the author said :

The truth must be accepted that more knowledge will be required of the pharmacist as time goes on—knowledge which shall require the devotion of a lifetime to acquire and apply. This must inevitably lead to the formation of a high class of pharmacists whose occupation will be pure pharmacy. A lower class who will take in hand the more commercial duties, and whose qualification will also be lower, will at the same time be created to fill the need occasioned by public demand. . . . Parliamentary intervention has been advocated by some to vindicate the rights of pharmacists. One thing should be kept in mind. Parliament rarely if ever grants privileges. Parliament only authorises the legitimate rights of persons or bodies. In certain respects pharmacists at present may have grievances. This is at least sure: if pharmacy is yet to be recognised as an organised profession, or if pharmacists are to receive the respect due to their rights, this will only be accorded to when pharmacists individually and collectively have proved by education and organisation that they merit such attention.

Thanks were accorded to Messrs. Nightingale, Young, and Murray.

London Chemists' Association.

A SPECIAL MEETING of the General Purposes Committee was held at St. Bride's Institute on December 6, Mr. F. W. Truman (Chairman of Council) presiding. There were also present Messrs. Watson-Will, Pentney, Pickering, Pond, Willson, and Betty (Hon. Secretary). The Chairman explained that the Parliamentary Committee had met and discussed the seventh clause of the proposed pharmacy Bill and the motion he (Mr. Truman) had moved in regard to the clause at the last meeting of the Association (*C. & D.*, November 26, page 875). The Committee had unanimously agreed to his proposition, but made an addition as follows :

That the London Chemists' Association ask the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society to reconsider the advisability of reconstructing Clause 7 as printed in the proposed amended Pharmacy Act, and recommend that the important matter of titles be incorporated in the Clause, so that those titles can only be used by duly qualified chemists.

Mr. J. C. Pentney formally moved the adoption of this motion. He would go even further, he said, in strengthening the hands of the Society by making it compulsory for every chemist qualified to pay a fee for registration which should carry with it membership of the Society. Mr. C. E. Pickering in seconding said he thought the Pharmaceutical Society could now by means of by-laws make the change regarding registration suggested by Mr. Pentney. Mr. Betty said as he understood it the proposition to be

submitted by the Association now recommended that while it might be permissible for limited companies to carry on business as chemists, provided one director was qualified, it would be illegal to use the titles unless all the directors were qualified. The Chairman thought their proposal would provide a kind of backdoor for the Society to recede from an untenable position. It would give them an opportunity of retiring gracefully. Moreover, if the London Chemists' Association sent such a proposal, provincial associations might follow suit, and the President would be induced to call a meeting of chemists to consider the clause. After some further discussion, Mr. Pentney's motion was unanimously agreed to, and the Hon. Secretary said that he would take the resolution to Bloomsbury Square that evening so that it might be brought up at the Council-meeting on the following day.

SOUTH LONDON BRANCH.

A MEETING of this branch was held at the Horns, Kennington, on Wednesday afternoon, December 7, at which about a dozen members were present. Mr. F. W. Truman presided, and the committee were re-elected as follows: Messrs. J. H. Aldridge, J. Brown, J. Butterworth, S. Dawson, J. W. Douglas, W. S. Glyn-Jones, R. H. Jones, A. Pellew, G. P. Pond, H. Slater, D. White, and R. Willson. A short paper was then read by Mr. Willson on "Tricky Trade." He said that among the troubles that beset the path of the chemist of the present day is the attempt by some pushing firms (generally American) to plant goods on the chemist willy-nilly. Relating his own experiences in this particular, Mr. Willson told of a certain firm exhibiting at the Chemists' Exhibition who offered goods there on certain terms, which were reiterated by a representative of the firm in question, who called on Mr. Willson later. But when the invoice came in he found 3d. per dozen more charged, and a further charge made for a showcase which was to have been given free. He wrote to the firm about the matter, but received no reply. A demand for payment was answered by a further letter, which cited a denial of Mr. Willson's statement of the terms. In another case he received a quarter-dozen of a certain proprietary article without asking for it; the parcel still awaits the sender for removal. About two years ago a certain smart American firm offered him goods (through a representative) on certain terms, but he refused to deal. Not to be balked, however, they sent him in succession two postcards about the goods, the second assuming that an order had been given and asking when he intended completing the purchase. He sent a rather stinging and expressive postcard in reply. This postcard the American firm put in the hands of the Post Office authorities, and a Post Office official called upon Mr. Willson and told him that if any other postcards of a like nature were sent they would prosecute. Mr. Willson explained the circumstances that had led up to the offending postcard and pointed out that it was an attempt on the part of the firm to push goods on him, and the official ended the interview by advising Mr. Willson to send any further postcard communications he received from the firm to the General Post-office, and the authorities would deal with the matter. These are only a few of many like methods of attempting to do business he had experienced, and he advised that goods sent and not ordered should not be accepted. Mr. R. T. Jennings agreed that it was always best to refuse goods not according to order. He had sent back goods on which 3d. postage had been charged, and had received prompt compensation. The methods described were distinctly American. Mr. T. H. Powell said on one occasion the representative of a certain firm called and asked him to take one gross of a certain article on stated terms. Ultimately he agreed to take three dozen at the gross rate, but the parcel sent contained one gross. He promptly returned it by parcel-post, but the senders refused delivery, and the Post Office advised him that the parcel was in their hands at his risk. Luckily his assistant overheard the bargain he had made with the representative, and after consultation with a solicitor friend he wrote to the firm telling them that he would keep three dozen as ordered, and if the other nine dozen were not removed within a certain time he would throw them into the dusthole. This secured prompt attention; he paid for three dozen, and the balance was removed. Another annoying thing is the custom of some large manufacturers supplying a

very much greater quantity of an article than is ordered. Some time ago he ordered twenty-five tablets of a certain kind, and the manufacturers sent 100. When payment for 100 was demanded it was refused. The matter would be put into court, said the manufacturers. Mr. Powell said he hoped so (the total value was about 1s. 6d.), but after eight or nine demands had been made the matter dropped. This method, which was quite un-English, appeared to be adopted by some firms as a matter of principle. A long and interesting discussion followed, it being ultimately agreed that all difficulties of a like kind that members experienced in future should be communicated to the Hon. Secretary (Mr. R. B. Betty) and dealt with by the Association.

Mr. Betty laid on view a number of dispensing-pots which he recommended to the attention of members. The pots are after the style of toilet jars, and are from 1 oz. to 2 oz. capacity with lids of celluloid or aluminium. They are of German manufacture, and Mr. Betty, who uses the jars in dispensing ointments, etc., recommended the aluminium lids as better fitting and less liable to warp.

The Chairman moved—

That a petition be sent from the South London Chemists' Association to the Local Government Board asking that all inspectors under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts be instructed that, as a matter of courtesy, they shall inform all qualified chemists whose drugs have been taken for examination under the Acts, as to the result of the examination within fourteen days of the taking of the sample.

He explained that it was a great injustice to chemists to have the uncertainty of prosecution overhanging them for an indefinite time. In the case of sweet nitre, for instance, if chemists knew at once that their stock was under strength it could be promptly withdrawn from sale. Mr. Willson seconded, and after discussion and amendment of the original motion, on the suggestion of Mr. Jennings, it was unanimously agreed to.

It was likewise agreed to send a resolution to the Pharmaceutical Council regarding Clause 7 of the Pharmacy Bill similar to that sent by the General Purposes Committee (see page 954).

Mr. Betty afterwards read a short note supplementary to his paper on the relations between medical men and pharmacists, read at the last meeting of the Association (*C. & D.*, November 26, page 875). He thought the relations between the two branches of the medical profession (medicine and pharmacy) and the hospitals should be systematised. He advocated an agreement between medical men and local pharmacists regarding the dispensing of prescriptions to poor people, and that no person be given free medicine at a hospital unless the prescription was initiated by a local doctor who could guarantee the genuineness of the need for medical relief. In this connection Mr. Jennings suggested that hospital authorities should be approached to allow prescriptions given in the hospitals to be dispensed by chemists outside when patients so wished. Many a working man lost a whole day waiting in the hospital dispensary for his prescription to be made up. This, in many cases, could very well be dispensed by outside chemists at a low price, if the authorities would sanction the practice.

Society of Arts.

MR. WALTER F. REID, F.I.C., F.C.S., read a paper before the Society, on December 7, on

THE ST. LOUIS EXHIBITION.

Mr. Boverton Redwood was in the chair. Mr. Reid was introduced by the Chairman in very complimentary terms, and congratulated on returning to this country mentally and physically sound after his labours and experiences of American hospitality. The Chairman referred also to Mr. Reid's linguistic abilities and the help his knowledge of languages had been to the various juries upon which he served.

Mr. Reid began his remarks by referring to the initiation by the Society of Arts of the first international Exhibition in 1851, and then went on to give an outline of the development of the idea until at St. Louis this year an exhibition covering an area of 1,240 acres was held. The distance from one side of the ground to the other was in one direction a mile, and in another direction

a mile and a half. It is a mistake, however, Mr. Reid said, to have such enormous shows, as there are limits to the size of an exhibition beyond which it is not advisable to go. A recent account of the exhibition that had been published by a man who spent a week there caused the lecturer to work out that that visitor must have travelled through the exhibition at the rate of eighteen miles an hour. Three hundred congresses were held during the exhibition, and some twenty million visitors passed the barriers up to the time of the closing of the exhibition last Thursday. The lecture reviewed the whole exhibition, but considerations of space will perforce confine our abstract to the pharmaceutical side. This is what Mr. Reid had to say of the pharmacy and chemical section:

The sub-committee for Group 23, Chemical and Pharmaceutical Arts, under the chairmanship of Mr. Boverton Redwood, secured so high a standard of excellence in the exhibits that 112 exhibitors obtained 100 prizes. Most of our large chemical and pharmaceutical manufacturers were well represented, and the most careful comparison with other nations failed to show any trace of that decadence in our chemical industry that is the favourite stalking-horse of some educational enthusiasts. After an exhaustive examination of all the chemical exhibits Dr. E. H. Keiser, the distinguished professor of chemistry at Washington University, adopted the descriptive catalogue prepared by our Royal Commission as an advanced text-book of technical chemistry, and brought his students to the British exhibits as up-to-date samples of chemical products. It is doubtless true that other nations surpass us in certain articles such as aniline dyes or synthetic drugs; but the tendency of modern industry is for nations as well as individuals to specialise, and it by no means follows that, because other countries may be doing a remunerative business in articles that we once produced, we have lost the business. Our capitalists and workers may have found even more remunerative outlets for their abilities, and it is only where they are hampered by unfair fiscal restrictions and patent laws that redress is needed. Germany had an excellent chemical exhibit, both of products and apparatus, which was housed in the Palace of Electricity, and included a large collective exhibit of the goods of numerous chemical manufacturers. France showed a fine selection of pharmaceutical preparations and perfumery arranged in artistic show-cases. The United States included among her exhibits the finest collection of chemicals exhibited at St. Louis by one firm—the Mallinckrodt Chemical-works.

The Chinese Government had, for the first time, an official collection of materials and drugs, many of the latter unknown to the Western world. In the Liberal Arts Building were delivered the lectures on liquid air and liquid hydrogen which had been arranged for by our Royal Commission, and which attracted numerous audiences. The machinery by which hydrogen could be liquefied and even solidified was installed in a special building, and aroused much interest among scientific visitors to the exhibition.

Reference was made to the elaborate series of coal-tests that are being carried out by the United States Government, 12,000, having been voted for the purpose by Congress. It was noted that the tendency of the Japanese to imitate European goods is increasing very rapidly; the imitation sometimes including the label or trade-mark. Great Britain had the best collection of testing, measuring, and recording instruments in the Electricity Section. The scientific apparatus exhibited by this country was of an exceptionally high order. The exhibits of American sponges and Canadian honey came in for mention on account of their merits, and in the Horticultural Section the growth of seedless apples, oranges, and gooseberries was stated to be a large and thriving industry. A large number of photographs were exhibited by means of the optical lantern, one of the most noticeable being that of Professor Himalaya's solar furnace. This consists of a large parabolic reflector, composed of more than 60,000 pieces of silvered glass—the focus of the mirror being fixed on a furnace where the professor expects to obtain even higher temperatures than those which can be produced by means of the electric arc.

A short discussion took place, the Chairman suggesting that a joint standing committee is desirable to deal with the organisation of the exhibits of this country at the various international exhibitions. Mr. Helm, who was Mr. Reid's colleague on the Royal Commission, also spoke, testifying to the tact, courtesy, discretion, and wonderful knowledge of languages possessed by Mr. Reid. Sir Henry Wood said success at large exhibitions depends on the way the exhibits are collected and organised.

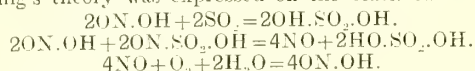
Society of Chemical Industry.

LONDON SECTION.

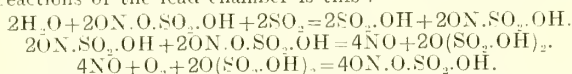
MR. A. GORDON SALAMON took the chair at a meeting of the London Section at Burlington House, W., on December 5. The first paper was by Dr. E. Divers, and consisted of a statement and criticism of

RASCHIG'S THEORY OF THE LEAD-CHAMBER PROCESS.

Raschig's theory was expressed on the blackboard thus :



It is due to work done by Divers, in which he showed that nitrite and normal sulphite do not react, that Raschig returned to a subject he worked at some years ago. The question is one upon which experts differ as to the several steps in the catalytic action that takes place in the manufacture of sulphuric acid. Dr. Divers's statement of the reactions of the lead chamber is this :



The discussion was taken up by Dr. Tilden—"a hopeless sceptic," as Dr. Divers called him—who failed to see that nitrososulphonic acid was necessary to the process. He was followed by Professor Ray, Mr. Carpenter, and Dr. Veley, the last two being "sceptics."

The next paper was by Mr. Llewellyn J. Davies on "A Rapid and Accurate Method for the Estimation of Phosphorus in Iron Ores," in which magnesia is used for fixing the phosphorus. Then Dr. Divers followed with a paper on "A Theory of the Action of Metals on Nitric Acid." This was another contentious subject, Dr. Divers and Professor Ray favouring a working hypothesis in which nitrite of the metal is formed; but Dr. Veley doubted whether metals would have any action on absolutely pure nitric acid.

As it was now half-past ten, the last paper, by Mr. C. S. Stanford Webster, on "a Fluoroscope for Comparing Substances under the Influence of Radium Rays," was taken as read.

Chemical Society.

A MEETING was held at Burlington House, Piccadilly, on Thursday, December 1, Dr. W. A. Tilden, F.R.S., presiding. After the completion of the formal business, Dr. P. C. Ray was called upon to read his paper on

NITRITES OF THE ALKALIES AND ALKALINE EARTHS AND THEIR DECOMPOSITION BY HEAT.

The author first drew attention to the methods of preparing these salts, and stated that the common process of gently heating the nitrate gives an impure product. The pure alkaline earth nitrites have a faintly yellow colour, slightly more vivid than those of the alkali nitrites. Incidentally it was pointed out that a sort of gradation in colour is shown throughout the series of nitrites, mercuric nitrite being a fairly vivid yellow while the alkali nitrites, when pure, show a scarcely perceptible yellow tint. The first result of the action of heat on the alkaline earth nitrites is the formation of some nitrate which is eventually decomposed, forming the corresponding oxide, oxygen and nitrogen oxides. Of the three, the barium nitrite is the most resistant, and at the high temperature required to effect decomposition of this salt the Jena glass tube in which the heating must be done is slightly attacked by the baryta formed.

The President was curious to know how sodium nitrite is prepared commercially, as it has no trace of colour; but nobody threw light on the point.

THE METALLIC DERIVATIVES OF NITROGEN IODIDE.

This paper is a continuation of that communicated by the author, Dr. O. Silberrad, to the last meeting of the Society. It dealt with the "true" and "supposed" silver, copper, and potassium derivatives of the iodide which have been described at various times. The outcome is that the copper and potassium compounds are probably true nitrogen-iodide derivatives, whereas the silver derivative is not. These results were, however, deduced to some

extent from the ratios in which the reagents react, no attempt being made to isolate definite crystalline products. This departure from established custom in chemical investigation was the principal point round which discussion centred, in the course of which Dr. Chattaway announced that he proposed shortly to bring to the notice of the Society some new metallic derivatives of the iodide. The next paper, which dealt with the formation of two interesting hydrocarbons from

DIMETHYLDIHYDRORESORCINOL.

was read by Professor Crossley on behalf of himself and Miss Nora Renouf. The hydrocarbons in question have the formulae C_8H_{16} and C_8H_{14} , and may turn out to be respectively identical with a hydrocarbon isolated by Zelinsky from Caucasian petroleum and lauroleone or its isomeride obtained from camphor. A paper on

NEW IMINO-COMPOUNDS.

was read by Dr. J. F. Thorp; it described the properties of a number of derivatives containing the little-known combination :C:NH. This group seems to behave very similarly to the ketone group—*e.g.*, it confers on neighbouring CH_2 groups the property of readily forming *iso*-nitroso derivatives. The last paper, by Dr. Farmer, dealt with the affinity constants of a series of aniline derivatives. During the evening a ballot for the

ELECTION OF FELLOWS

was held and the following gentlemen with pharmaceutical associations were elected : Mr. Harold Deane, B.Sc., one of the chemical demonstrators at the "Square" School; Mr. John Evans, Bell Scholar in 1897; Mr. G. W. T. Horrod and Mr. J. R. Johnson, of the Apothecaries' Hall.

Births.

ALDERTON.—At George Goch, Johannesburg, on October 29, the wife of Mr. W. B. Alderton (of Messrs. Smith, Rive & Co.), of a daughter.

FORBES.—At Broad Street, Denny, on December 5, the wife of John J. Forbes, chemist and druggist, of a son.

GAULDIE.—At Rustenburg, Transvaal, on November 5, the wife of N. L. Gauldie, chemist and druggist (of N. L. Gauldie & Co.), of a son.

NEWTON.—At 35 King's Avenue, Old Trafford, Manchester, on November 25, to Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Newton, a son.

Marriages.

HODGINS—TINDAL.—At St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Cape Town, on November 8, by the Rev. W. R. Thomson, Walter W. Hodgins, M.D., Bloemfontein, to Janie, daughter of Mr. John Tindal, Barrister at Law, Montrose, N.B.

JOHNSON—SQUIRE.—At St. Paul's, Avenue Road, Hampstead, on December 3, by the Rev. Herbert Pury, Vicar, James Henry Johnson, of 12A Whitehall Court, son of the late J. H. Johnson, of Hall Garth, Over Kellet, Carnfurth, to Phyllis Wyatt, younger daughter of Peter Wyatt Squire, of 40 Avenue Road, Hampstead, and The Ryepeck, Shepperton.

WALKER—ARTHUR.—At St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Dundee, on December 6, by the Rev. R. F. Strathern, M.A., Alexander C. Walker, chemist and druggist, to Jeannie, daughter of Mr. James Arthur, inspector of cleansing.

SILVER WEDDING.

SQUIRE—BREMNER.—At St. Mary's, Chigwell, on December 6, 1879, by the Rev. Spencer Meadows, Vicar of Chigwell and Rural Dean, assisted by the Rev. Charles Waller, Vicar of Woodford Bridge, Peter Wyatt Squire, of 40 Avenue Road, third surviving son of Mr. Peter Squire, of York Gate, Regent's Park, and Basmead Manor, St. Neots, to Mabel Jane (Tibbie), youngest daughter of Mr. Alexander Bramwell Bremner, of Claybury Hall, Essex.

Deaths.

BOOLE.—At 16 Ladbroke Road, W., on December 5, Lucy Everest Boole, F.I.C., aged forty-two, teacher of chemistry at the London School of Medicine for Women, fourth daughter of the late George Boole, Professor of Mathematics, Queen's College, Cork. Cremation at Woking on Friday, December 9. Leave Necropolis Station, Waterloo, 11.50. No flowers, mourning optional, by request. We take this announcement from the "Times." It may be remembered that Miss Boole was associated with Professor W. R. Dunstan in several investigations pursued in the Pharmaceutical Research Laboratory some years ago. She was an exceptionally talented woman and a capable teacher.

BURTON.—At Llandudno, on December 3, Mr. Joseph Burton, chemist and druggist, aged seventy. Mr. Burton went to Llandudno thirty-eight years ago to become manager to the late Mr. Thomas Williams. This business Mr. Burton eventually purchased, and carried on till his death. He was a prominent Freemason, being a Past Master of the Llandudno Lodge, and holding provincial honours. He is survived by two sons, one (Mr. Harry Burton) being a chemist and druggist.

BUTLER.—At Leicester, on December 4, Mr. Thomas Edward Butler, chemist and druggist, aged eighty-three. Mr. Butler was the founder of the firm of T. E. Butler, Son & Co., of Town Hall Lane and Sanvey Gate, Leicester. He was the inventor of "Seabreeze," the morning tonic, a popular local saline, and he built up a large business, both wholesale and retail. Mr. Butler, who had been in failing health for some time past, took a deep and practical interest in religious and social movements. Mr. Butler started business in a very small way in 1839, and was the oldest chemist in Leicester. The firm are about to open handsome new premises in the High Street, Leicester, and it had been the natural desire and wish of the late Mr. Butler to be present at the opening of these premises—pharmacy, warehouse, and offices—but this was not to be. He was for many years closely connected with the work of Harvey Lane Baptist Chapel, where his loss will be keenly felt, he having as a child been taken by his father to that venerable pile to hear the great preacher Robert Hall.

CLIFTON.—At Laverstoke, Uttcxeter New Road, Derby, on December 4, Mr. Frederick Clifton, chemist and druggist, of Clifton & Dawson, chemists, 34 Corn Market, Derby. Mr. Clifton, who died somewhat suddenly, was seventy-two years of age, and had been in business in Derby as a homœopathic chemist for upwards of fifty years. He started business at the Market Head, at the time when the old Piazzas existed in the town, but upon the improvement of Rotten Row he removed to the Corn Market, where he remained in business up to the time of his death. Some time ago Mr. Clifton had a somewhat serious illness, but apparently he thoroughly recovered, and attended regularly to his business. In fact, he was there as usual on Saturday morning, but subsequently he was seized with faintness and went home about midday. Then he appears to have had an attack of cerebral hæmorrhage, from which he did not recover. He leaves one son (a doctor in Sheffield) and four daughters, one of whom is married to Mr. H. G. W. Dawson, pharmaceutical chemist, who had for some time been in partnership with Mr. Clifton. Although one of the most familiar and best-known citizens of Derby, Mr. Clifton never took any active part in public affairs.

EKINS.—At Bedford, on December 1, Mr. Arthur Dearlove Ekins, chemist and druggist, only son of Mr. John Ekins, chemist and druggist, 97 High Street, Bedford.

FORSHAW.—At Fountain Street, Bradford, on December 2, Mr. Thomas Garratt Forshaw, chemist and druggist, aged seventy-four. Mr. Forshaw was born at Prestbury, Cheshire, where his father, the Rev. Thurstan Forshaw, was headmaster of the Grammar-school. He was apprenticed to Mr. William Wilson, chemist, Hanley, and afterwards acted as assistant in Coventry, Liverpool, and Leamington, and was assistant medical officer at the Macclesfield Dispensary and the North Staffordshire Infirmary. In 1860 he married, and commenced business as a chemist at Brindley

Ford. A year or two later he disposed of this business to become dispenser in the Stockport Infirmary, and in 1864 got a similar position in the Bradford Infirmary and Dispensary, which he held for fully twenty-five years. He commenced business in Westgate, Bradford, about eleven years ago, which has latterly been carried on by his son.

HAMILTON.—In the course of one week Mr. Thomas L. Hamilton, chemist, of Ellor Street, Pendleton, Salford, and Mrs. Hamilton lost by death their adopted son and daughter at the ages of nineteen and twenty-three respectively. The shock of the son's death from consumption caused the death of the girl from heart-failure.

HOFFMANN.—At 64 Schlüterstrasse, Charlottenburg, Berlin, on November 30, Dr. Friedrich Hoffmann, formerly of New York, aged seventy-two. An appreciation of this distinguished pharmacist by Dr. F. B. Power appears on another page.

JAMESON.—At 48 Baker Street, W., on November 26, Mr. Walter Carpenter Jameson, chemist and druggist, aged eighty-three.

ROGERS.—At Maidstone, on December 5, Mr. William Rogers, pharmaceutical chemist, aged eighty. Mr. Rogers had carried on business in High Street, Maidstone, for fifty years.

WHYTE.—At 31 Hayswell Road, Arbroath, on December 3, Jessie Drummond Reid, wife of Mr. James S. Whyte, chemist and druggist, and eldest daughter of the late Mr. William Reid, chemist, Arbroath.

Trade Notes.

MESSRS. HOWARDS & SONS, LTD., have registered "Quinoloy London" as an alternative telegraphic address.

NO AMALGAMATION.—We are asked to deny a rumour that the business of the Crown Perfumery Co. and Lewis & Burrows, Ltd., are to be amalgamated. There is not the slightest foundation for the statement.

"ZEPTO" SHOWCARD.—Messrs. T. Christy & Co., Ltd. Swan Lane, E.C., send us a specimen of a novel and attractive showcard for "Zepto" antiseptic tartar-remover. It is small, and they will send one to any subscriber who drops them a postcard.

CUTOLINE, ETC.—Messrs. Thomas Christy & Co., Old Swan Lane, London, E.C., have been appointed agents in this country and the Colonies by Dr. Max Lehmann, of Berlin, for his preparations, notably cutoline, glattolin (which we have previously referred to), nail-polish, and razor-paste.

SPRATT'S ALMANAC FOR 1905 is, as usual, adorned with reproductions of portraits of typical specimens of the collie, bulldog, Pekinese spaniel, and foxhound, and of denizens of the feathered world. The back of each picture is occupied with technical matter of interest to dog and bird fanciers. A copy of the almanac, which is of the hanging variety, can be had by chemists who apply to Spratt's Patent, Ltd., 24 and 25 Fenchurch Street, E.C.

"FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON" are the words of introduction used by Messrs. Potter & Clarke, Artillery Lane, E.C., for this packet of herbs. They have been good enough to send us a packet (for inspection), and from this we learn that after boiling the contents for twenty minutes the mass is applied as a poultice to the bruise. The liquor may be used to bathe the part or renew the poultice. The herbs are warranted to cure in three hours if the directions are followed out intelligently, and the applications are made soon after the injury. The prices are 1s. 6d. per doz., and 3d. retail.



MONTERRAT LIME-JUICE CORDIAL is forging ahead. We are informed that quite a number of contracts have been entered into with leading hotels for the supply of Montserrat. The Crystal Palace and the two chief railways are also making this brand of lime-juice cordial a speciality. This increase in publicity should lead to larger sales of "Montserrat" by chemists. It is placed on the market by Messrs. Evans Sons Lescher & Webb, Ltd., 60 Bartholomew Close, E.C., and Liverpool.

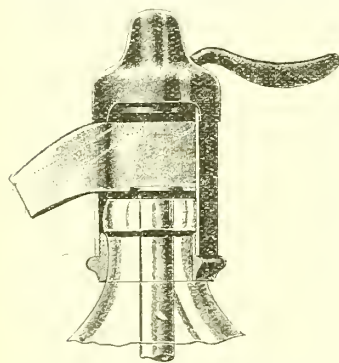
"LIGHTNING CLEANSER," the speciality of Messrs. Edward Cook & Co., Ltd., Bow, E., travelled with the Tibet Mission in the baggage of Mr. Edmund Candler, one of the Press correspondents. He has written the following quaint note to the firm:

I am most extremely grateful to you for your kind and opportune present of soap. We have tried it on a Tibetan, and he is now quite unrecognisable. I believe yours is the first soap in the world that has been applied to these people. You are to be congratulated that it has stood the test—a supreme one, as you would realise if you could see them.

TRIPLEX RAT-VIRUS.—Messrs. C. R. Harker, Stag & Morgan, Ltd., 15 Laurence Pountney Lane, E.C., are the sole agents for the United Kingdom for the "Triplex Rat-virus." This is a bacteriological culture of germs fatal to rats and mice, but harmless to man and domestic animals. The virus is in liquid form, and bread soaked in it is placed in the runs of the vermin. After a rat eats the poisoned bread disease develops, and it is communicated from one rat to another till the whole colony of rats is exterminated. The virus is sold in tubes at 2s. 9d. each, very precise directions accompanying each package.

DO I SHAVE CLEAN?—This is not the question which Messrs. Wright, Layman & Umney, Ltd., are putting to the public just now, but it is the reflection of the man who shaves when he reads their one—viz., What proportion of men are clean shaven? As the makers of Wright's coal-tar soap (shaving and toilet) the firm are advertising a coupon-competition for a 50% cheque in the leading papers and magazines, and it interests chemists and druggists, because the public have to send a soap wrapper with each reply. It will be well to meet the demand while the competition lasts, and Messrs. Wright, Layman & Umney, Ltd., are doing their part by making a special offer to retailers in this week's issue of the *C. & D.* which adds a good bonus to the ordinary profit on this profitable article.

THE "IDRIS" PATENT SYPHON. which Messrs. Idris & Co., Ltd., Camden Town, N.W., have recently introduced, solves the problem of isolating aerated waters absolutely from contact with any metallic substance whatsoever. The annexed illustration shows the syphon-top in section. Upon the top of the syphon-body is placed a pure tin jacket or receiver; then a glass tube with expanded top (which catches an I. R. washer) is placed in the syphon, and over this is next placed an enamelled white-porcelain nozzle (much stronger than metal). This nozzle is pierced



with a hole at the top of which is a trough with exit orifice, all covered by a pure indiarubber disc, upon which are screwed two metal parts, the outer one comprising a simple lever mechanism. It will thus be seen that the contents of the syphon are completely isolated from the metal parts. The lever mechanism is ingenious, perhaps because it is quite simple. There is a push button in the top; when not in use this presses down on the I. R. disc, but as soon as the lever is lowered the button rises, and the internal pressure forces the water up the tube through the porcelain, and so out at the nozzle. The construction commends itself as one eminently suitable for chemists to bring under the notice of physicians and better-class customers. Messrs. Idris & Co. are making a point of putting up all their aerated medicinal waters, as well as "Distil-idris" and "Salidris," in these syphons, and they will be glad to furnish any *C. & D.* subscriber who has not yet stocked them with particulars as to prices.

POISONED BY CIGARETTES.—A twelve-year-old schoolboy of Stassfurt, near Magdeburg, died of heart-failure, following acute nicotine-poisoning, caused by excessive cigarette-smoking.

Festivities.

Leeds' Chemists' Association.

A MOST ENJOYABLE musical evening was spent by the members and friends of this Association on Thursday, December 1, at Ashby's Café, Leeds. Mr. George Worfolk (Ilkley) presided. Among the contributors to the programme, which included thirty-two items, were Messrs. Webster Steel, Whitfield, F. Firth, O. Helliwell, H. Kettleton, Woolhouse, Tring, J. Russell, O. Duff, H. Stotager, Crawford, Kitchen, Stockdale, Sunley, Moreton, Coulshaw, and P. Denton. Mr. G. Jackson was the elocutionist. In addition to the gentlemen named, Mr. B. Heldsworth, a clever entertainer, and Mr. Gotthard, a lightning cartoonist of exceptional merit, contributed largely to the evening's merriment.

Sunderland Diners.

THE annual dinner of the Sunderland Chemists' Association was held at the Grand Hotel, Sunderland, on November 20, the President (Mr. R. H. Bell) in the chair. Among others present were the Mayor, Town Clerk, Aldermen Harrison, Ranken, Burns, Turnbull, and Smith, Councillor Thompson, and Messrs. Thomas Walton, G. P. Fairman, J. G. Harrison, J. Mitchinson, R. Robinson, W. R. Bell, Kerse (Newcastle), C. Ridley (Newcastle), W. Atkins (Newcastle), Pescod (Newcastle), R. L. Rennison, E. L. Cherrett, and A. W. Golightly (Hon. Secretary). After an excellent dinner and the Royal toasts had been disposed of, the Town Clerk proposed "The Pharmaceutical Society," and Alderman Harrison replied. "The Mayor and Corporation," proposed by Mr. Walton, was replied to by the Mayor and Alderman Burns. "Sunderland Chemists and Kindred Associations" was proposed by Dr. Renney, and Messrs. Bell and Kerse responded. An enjoyable musical programme was contributed during the evening.

Benevolence and Pleasure.

THE annual smoking-concert of the Newcastle-on-Tyne and District Chemists' Association was held on Wednesday evening, December 7, in the Collingwood Restaurant, Newcastle, Mr. George Foggan (President) in the chair. There was a very good attendance of members and friends, including a strong contingent of Sunderland *confères*. In the course of the evening a collection amounting to 4*l.* was made on behalf of the Pharmaceutical Benevolent Fund. Harmony was contributed by Mr. Gibbon's Glee and Madrigal Society Quartette, Messrs. Clem. Bonsor, F. Mace, Armstrong, Errington, Skelton, and Firth; whilst Mr. Layne was as entertaining as ever in his topical "trade" recitations. Mr. R. H. Bell (President of the Sunderland Chemists' Association) also contributed readings, and Mr. Townend sleight-of-hand performances. Mr. Bloor accompanied with much acceptance. The concert was one of the most successful ever held by the Association.

The Plymouth Dinner

was briefly alluded to in the *C. & D.* last week (p. 903). Mr. Park, in replying to the toast of "The Pharmaceutical Society," said the Council of the Society will have to decide in the ensuing month what course they will take in regard to the Pharmacy Bill. It has been before Parliament for several Sessions, and each time the opposition has proceeded from those who represent unqualified persons, and, being a private Bill, it is very easy to have it blocked and thrown out. The Council's only chance is to have the support of the Government. They have approached the Government, as far as they have been able, and the Government have not shown any very sympathetic feeling in regard to that matter, especially with regard to the seventh clause. He (the speaker) supposed chemists would have to decide in the immediate future whether it would be in their interests to endeavour to get the Bill through with that clause eliminated or modified. The Council will have to consult with the gentlemen who have backed the Bill, and perhaps the backers' opinion would have a certain amount of weight with them as a Council. They all knew what they would like—to stick to the Bill—but it might be a matter of expediency to drop the clause unless they got some definite promise from the Government.

Trade Report.

NOTICE TO BUYERS.—The prices given in this section are those obtained by importers or manufacturers for bulk quantities or original packages. To these prices various charges have to be added, whereby values are in many instances greatly augmented before wholesale dealers stock the goods. Qualities of drugs and oils vary greatly, and higher prices are commanded by selected qualities even in bulk quantities. It would be unreasonable for retail buyers to expect to get small quantities at anything like the prices here quoted.

42 Cannon Street, London, E.C., December 8.

AT the last sales of the year held to-day new and old drugs were offered, of which a fair proportion was sold. Zanzibar aloes brought cheap rates, and for Cape aloes a decline of quite 2s. 6d. was submitted to. Annatto again brought dearer prices. Buchu-leaves and balsam copaiba were steady. Tolu balsam of direct import was rather lower. Sumatra benzoin was slow of sale. Cardamoms sold to a very slight extent, the prices being quotably unaltered. Cascara sagrada sold cheaply. Refined camphor brought good prices, as also did ergot. Jamaica honey sold steadily, and for ipacacuanha unaltered rates were paid for Minas, no business being done in the Matto Grosso description. Jalap sold irregularly but cheaper, and for kino the former high rates still hold good. Myrrh sells slowly at high prices, and for a parcel of eucalyptus oil steady rates were paid. Citronella oil was well maintained, and Chinese rhubarb was slow of sale. Sarsaparilla of good grey quality was extremely scarce, offerings being confined to middling Lima and native Jamaica. Timnevelly senna brought steady rates, and all descriptions of beeswax were firm, Jamaica, however, being a shade dearer. Outside of the drug-auctions there have been few important alterations. Copper sulphate continues the advance previously noted, and articles that are firmer include sulphate of ammonia, Calabar beans, fusel oil, and menthol. Clove oil, cocoa butter, and white pepper are lower. The subjoined table represents the principal alterations of the week:

| Higher | Firmer | Easier | Lower |
|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Annatto | Ammonia sulphate | Cascara sagrada | Aloes (Cape) |
| Copper sulphate | Calabar-beans | Nutmegs | Cocoa butter |
| Oil, turpentine | Camphor | Pimento | Ginger (Cochin) |
| Potash, acetate | Fusel Oil | | Jalap |
| Sarsaparilla (Mex) | Menthol | | Oil, clove |
| | Wax, bees' (Jam.) | | Pepper (white) |
| | | | Shellac |

Cablegrams.

HAMBURG, December 8.—Refined camphor, ipacacuanha, wormseed, spermaceti, and carnauba wax are all firmly held.

NEW YORK, December 8.—Business here is quiet. Opium is slow of sale at \$2.73 per lb., and quinine is steady at 25c. per oz. Menthol has developed a firmer feeling at \$2.60 per lb., and domestic refined camphor has advanced to 75c. per lb. Lycopodium remains strong at 85c. per lb., and peppermint oil is slow of sale at \$3.50 for tin oil. Nuxvomica has advanced 1c. per lb.

ACETONE continues very scarce, prices having an advancing tendency.

ALMONDS.—A report from Messina, dated November 30, states that the shipping season is closing. Holders have refused to the last to make concessions. Stocks therefore remain on their hands; but they are not large, as the yield has been small. Prompt shipment P and G sweet is noted 69s., and bitter 79s. per cwt. of 50½ kilos. f.o.b.

ANTIMONY PREPARATIONS.—Sulphuret, crocus, and other

preparations of antimony have advanced in sympathy with the metal.

BELLADONNA-ROOT is in fair inquiry, but there is still great difficulty in obtaining good-testing root. There is plenty of common chumpy on offer at from 34s. to 38s. per cwt.

BROMIDES.—Makers of bromides have difficulty in effecting delivery, and the attitude of bromine-makers, who are not disposed to sell for forward delivery, also adds to the difficulties. The official price therefore continues nominal to a certain extent, as several pence advance has been paid.

CALABAR BEANS.—At auction in Liverpool 8 packages sold at 3½d. per lb., an advance of ¼d. on the last price paid.

CALAMUS-ROOT.—This flavouring agent is quoted at 25s. per cwt., c.i.f., for split.

CAMPOR.—The firm tone continues, with small sales of English refined at from 3s. to 3s. 3d. per lb. In second-hands German bells have been sold at 2s. 10d. per lb., and for Japanese tablets 2s. 10d. and 2s. 10½d. has been paid. In the drug-auctions 51 cases of Japanese refined tablets were offered, of which the ¼-oz. sizes were held at 2s. 10d. per lb., and for 10 cases of ½-oz. (all that offered) 2s. 9d. was paid. We understand the ¼-oz. sizes were afterwards sold privately at 2s. 10d. For a lot of 25 cases of 1-oz tablets the limit was 2s. 9d. per lb.

The exports from Canton and Hong-Kong to the Continent from January 1 to November 4 have been as follows:

| Boxes | 1901. | 1902. | 1903. | 1904. |
|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|
| ... | 1,493 | 14,017 | 3,445 | 361 |

The exports to U.K. to date have been 47 boxes only, against 87 boxes at the same date last year.

CASTORUM.—The annual sales of castorum will be held on Wednesday, December 14, when the Hudson Bay Co. will offer about 1,100 lbs., as against 1,510 lbs. last year. In addition, Messrs. S. Figgis & Co. will offer 250 lbs.

CINCHONA.—At auction on Tuesday the small supply of 915 packages was offered, of which about half found buyers at an average unit of 1½d. per lb., being steady as compared with the previous London sales. Several parcels of East Indian bark were highly limited and bought in, but further sales were afterwards made by private treaty.

The following table shows the quantities of bark offered and sold:

| | ... | ... | Packages Offered | Packages Sold |
|---------------------|-----|-----|------------------|---------------|
| East India cinchona | ... | ... | 818 | of which 303 |
| African cinchona | ... | ... | 56 | " 56 |
| Java cinchona... | ... | ... | 30 | " 30 |
| Ceylon cinchona | ... | ... | 11 | " 11 |
| | | | 915 | " 400 |

The following table shows the approximate quantities purchased by the principal buyers:

| | ... | ... | ... | Lbs. |
|---------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|--------|
| The American and Italian factories | ... | ... | ... | 27,510 |
| The Brunswick factory | ... | ... | ... | 14,092 |
| Messrs. Howards & Sons, Ltd. | ... | ... | ... | 10,910 |
| The Mannheim and Amsterdam factories | ... | ... | ... | 6,050 |
| The Imperial Quinine Company | ... | ... | ... | 4,635 |
| The Frankfurt and Stuttgart factories | ... | ... | ... | 790 |
| Druggists | ... | ... | ... | 22,120 |

| | | | |
|------------------------|-----|-----|---------|
| Total quantity sold... | ... | ... | 86,107 |
| Bought in or withdrawn | ... | ... | 123,451 |

Total quantity offered ... 214,558

The prices paid were as follows: EAST INDIAN CROWN, original stem chips at 5½d. to 4½d., root 5½d., and branch 5½d.; renewed stem chips 4d. to 5½d. per lb. SUECIRUBRA original stem chips and shavings 2½d. to 3½d., stem chips and branch 2d., fair to good root 2½d. to 5½d., branch 1d. to 2½d., and dusty ¾d. to 1½d. CEYLON, original stem chips 5½d., hybrid ditto 4½d., renewed quilly chips 5½d. JAVA, ordinary dusty chips 1½d. AFRICAN, fair broken quill 5d. per lb.

The N.Y. Nederl. Veem at Amsterdam reports the shipments from Java to Europe as follows:

| Year. | Amst. lbs. | Year. | Amst. lbs. |
|----------|------------|----------|------------|
| 1904 ... | 1,258,000 | 1898 ... | 1,237,000 |
| 1903 ... | 996,000 | 1897 ... | 989,000 |
| 1902 ... | 974,000 | 1896 ... | 909,000 |
| 1901 ... | 1,198,000 | 1895 ... | 1,264,000 |
| 1900 ... | 1,490,000 | 1894 ... | 809,700 |
| 1899 ... | 1,362,000 | 1893 ... | 728,000 |

Total Shipments, January to November.

| Year. | Amst. lbs. | Year. | Amst. lbs. |
|----------|------------|----------|------------|
| 1904 ... | 13,170,000 | 1898 ... | 10,132,000 |
| 1903 ... | 12,525,000 | 1897 ... | 7,705,000 |
| 1902 ... | 12,023,000 | 1896 ... | 9,189,000 |
| 1901 ... | 11,459,000 | 1895 ... | 8,193,700 |
| 1900 ... | 9,660,000 | 1894 ... | 8,386,700 |
| 1899 ... | 10,783,800 | 1893 ... | 6,951,000 |

The auction to be held at Amsterdam on December 15 will consist of 11,069 bales and 538 cases, weighing 1,008,444 kilos., and containing 47,210 kilos. sulphate of quinine. The manufacturing bark contains an average of 5.25 per cent., against 5.38 per cent. for the November auction and an average of 5.32 per cent. for the ten auction held in 1903. In the drug-auction 21 bales of good bright *Succirubra* quills were bought in at 8*d.* per lb., a bid of 7*d.* being refused, and 18 bales of fair flat *Maracaibo* bark were taken out at 5½*d.* per lb.

COCOA BUTTER.—At auction 120 tons of *Cadbury's* brand sold at from 11½*d.* to 1*s.* per lb., being 3½*d.* lower. At the Amsterdam auctions 90 tons of Van Houtens were offered and sold at 68*c.* to 70½*c.* (average price 68.60*c.*), against 75.85*c.* at the previous auction; 18 tons de Jong sold at 63½*c.* to 64*c.* and 7 tons Mignon at 63½*c.* to 63¾*c.*

COPPER SULPHATE.—Ordinary brands for prompt delivery have improved a further 10*s.* per ton, to 21*l.*, and finest quality is unaltered at 22*l.* 10*s.* The prospects are for yet higher figures before the end of the season.

ERGOT.—Firm. Good Russian is quoted 1*s.* 5½*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* per lb., c.i.f., according to holder, and 1*s.* 7*d.* net has been paid for new on the spot. A difficulty in the way of future business in this article with Hamburg is the fact that the three shipping companies (General Steam, Kirsten, and Perlbach) have raised the rate of freight on ergot from Hamburg to London to 75*s.* per ton, whereas it was formerly 25*s.* to 35*s.* This will probably have the effect of stimulating offers direct from Russia to London. In the drug-auction 3 bags of small to bold fair Spanish realised 1*s.* 10*d.* per lb.

FUSIL OIL.—The spot price for washed is from 64*l.* to 65*l.* per ton, with a firmer tendency. These prices are likely to be maintained until the new season commences in April.

LAVENDER-FLOWERS continue scarce at from 36*s.* to 38*s.* per cwt., c.i.f.

LIQUOR BISMUTH.—The present price in carboys is now 10¼*d.* per lb.

LITHIA.—As intimated last week, this article has advanced, but the new prices were not announced until after 'Change on Thursday last. The price of carbonate has risen from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.* 4*d.*, or 113 per cent., and the following is now the scale: *Carbonate* pure, 6*s.* 2*d.*, 28 lbs. 5*s.* 11½*d.*, 1 cwt. 5*s.* 8½*d.*, and 2 cwt. 5*s.* 4*d.* *Citrate* crystals 4*s.*, 28 lbs. 3*s.* 11*d.*, and 1 cwt. 3*s.* 10*d.*—all net, with powder 3*d.* to 4*d.* more than the above. The general impression is that a further rise is not improbable, as evidently an agreement has taken place between the two German makers and the American maker, whereby each will confine himself to his own territory. Prices of lithia carbonate on several occasions have shown wide fluctuations—e.g., from about 3*s.* 9*d.* it rose steadily to 10*s.* 8*d.*, afterwards declining quickly to 4*s.* 6*d.* and subsequently to 2*s.* 6*d.*

MENTHOL is firmer on the spot, 9*s.* per lb. having been paid for small lots of Kobayashi, and March-April shipment at 7*s.* 6*d.*, c.i.f.

OIL, CASTOR, is firm. *French* medicinal in barrels is quoted 27*s.* 6*d.*, and in cases 30*s.* per cwt., while medicinal *Italian* can be had at 31*s.* in cases. *Belgian* firsts is worth 22*s.* 6*d.*, and seconds 20*s.* per cwt. *Hull* make for December delivery is 21*l.* 15*s.* for firsts and 19*l.* 15*s.* per ton for seconds, ex wharf, London.

OIL, COD-LIVER.—Our Bergen correspondent writes on December 3 that the cod-liver market is again firmer for finest non-congealing oil at 165*s.* per barrel, f.o.b. Bergen. The exports from Bergen to date amount to 7,095 barrels, against 2,280 barrels at the corresponding date of last year. Spot values are steady at 170*s.* per barrel for finest Norwegian oil.

OIL, OLIVE.—According to a Messina report the bad crops are fully confirmed. The yield is insufficient even for home use, and the tendency is firm and rising. Yellow Messina for prompt shipment is quoted 35*l.*, green Messina 34*l.* 5*s.*, burning Russia 38*l.* 15*s.*, Gallipoli 35*l.* 5*s.*, and choice ditto 36*s.* per tun, f.o.b.

OIL, TURPENTINE.—There has been a strong upward movement this week, prices advancing at one time to 38*s.* 9*d.*, but they have since declined to 38*s.* 3*d.* per cwt. for American on the spot.

OILS, ESSENTIAL.—*Clove* oil is rather lower, one English distiller having reduced his price to 4*s.* per lb. *Lemongrass* oil is firm, with small sales at 8½*d.* per oz., spot; and for *Citronella* oil on the spot 1*s.* 8*d.* per lb. is quoted. *Star-aniseed* oil is steady at 5*s.* 3*d.* per lb. on the spot.

OLIBANUM.—Small sales of good small and medium to bold palish drop have been made at from 40*s.* to 45*s.*, and ordinary at 30*s.* per cwt.

OPIMUM.—A quiet but steady feeling rules for most descriptions, with small sales of manufacturing and soft-shipping kinds. A small business has been done in Persian at 13*s.* per lb.

SMYRNA, November 25.—The sales for the week amount to 13 cases only, including 8 cases Yerli tale quale for England and 4 cases choice Yerli for France. The weather has been favourable for the sowings, but holders still maintain a firm position. Weak sellers not being in immediate want of money, the above prices will probably rule until large buyers come on the market again. The following are the quotations: Current tale quale 7*s.* to 7*s.* 3*d.*; "druggists" 7*s.* 3*d.* to 7*s.* 7*d.*; Yerli, Bogaditz, and Karahissar, 7*s.* 5*d.* to 8*s.* 2*d.* per lb., f.o.b. The arrivals in Smyrna to date amount to 3,993 cases, against 1,617 cases at the same time last year.

SMYRNA, November 30. The sales during November amount to only 50 cases, as follows: 23 cases for England, 9 cases for the Continent, and 18 cases for account of speculators. Notwithstanding the small business, the fact that we have had favourable weather for the sowings keeps the market firm. The arrivals to date amount to 3,993 cases, against 1,617 at same period last year, and in Constantinople 2,495, against 994 cases in 1903. The stock in first and second lands is now 4,718 cases, against 4,594 at same period last year, and in Constantinople 1,608, against 770.

OTTO OF ROSE.—Advices from Turkey continue firm, with a steady business doing here at previous quotations, including finest virgin at from 18*s.* per T. oz. upwards.

POTASH ACETATE is dearer at 8½*d.* per lb. net in 1-cwt. lots.

POTASH CYANIDE is rather easier at 8*d.* per lb. for Beckton, and *sodium* is quoted 7*d.*

QUININE has been steady, but quiet, with small sales of German sulphate in bulk at 10¾*d.* per oz. on the spot.

SHELLAC has been quiet on the spot, with small sales at unaltered rates, including fair to good cakey second Orange at from 230*s.* to 240*s.*, up to 250*s.* being quoted for fine Orange. A C Garnet is quoted 190*s.* spot. The quotations for futures are nominal, practically no business having been done, and a weak tone has prevailed.

SPICES.—At auction *Ginger* was very slow of sale, and although about 900 packages were offered, only 100 packages sold at lower prices, including small and medium washed rough mouldy Cochin at 16*s.* to 17*s.* The demand for *Pepper* was also slow, greyish to fair Singapore being bought in at 5½*d.* to 6*d.*, and Tellicherry was bought in at 5½*d.* for fair. Privately Singapore is quoted on the spot at 5½*d.* per lb. for fair. *White pepper* at auction was lower, 64 packages selling, without reserve, at 8½*d.* to 8¾*d.* *Pimento* was also easier in auction, 33 bags of fair selling at 2½*d.* per lb. *Nutmegs* and *Mace* were both quiet, the former being easier. Fifty bales of Zanzibar *Cloves* were bought in at 5½*d.* for good fair, and 10 cases good unpicked Penang at 11*d.* The delivery-market has fluctuated, with fair sales, principally of October-December delivery at 5½*d.* to 5¾*d.*, and January-March at 5¾*d.*, closing buyers at these figures on Wednesday.

SOY.—The exports from Canton and Hong-Kong from January 1 to November 4, have been as follows:

| | 1901. | 1902. | 1903. | 1904. |
|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Casks ... | 1,444 | 2,119 | 1,900 | 3,263 |

SUGAR OF MILK. Best white powdered is steady at 57*s.* 6*d.* per cwt.

SULPHUR.—A report from Messina, dated November 30, states that the present high prices are causing further competition in regard to the opening-up of new sources of sulphur—*e.g.*, the Popocatepetl volcano, containing large sulphur layers, is being worked. In Iceland a railway is being built to connect the sulphur-mines (which are being worked by Englishmen) with the seaboard. The Louisiana mines, it is said, are to increase their output to 200,000 tons yearly. "Outsiders" who have been eagerly selling have brought about a decline of 2s. to 3s. The parcels belonging to outsiders are dwindling, so that ere long it will be necessary to fall back upon the monopoly supplies. The monopoly, however, has not been selling for several months, and will not reduce their prices unless buyers contract to buy exclusively from them for a certain number of years. They also reduced their prices to paper-mills, which otherwise would adopt pyrites. The exports from Sicily amounted to 409,974 tons from January to October, against 407,562 tons in 1903; and the total stock at the end of October, 1904, was 368,563 tons, against 355,300 tons at the corresponding period of 1903.

London Drug-auctions.

The next drug-sales will take place on January 19, 1905. The date had been originally fixed for January 5, but as dissatisfaction had been expressed at this early date, the matter was put to the "Room" at to-day's auctions, and the voting was almost unanimously in favour of January 19. The following table shows the quantity of goods offered and sold:

| | Offered | Sold | | Offered | Sold |
|----------------------|---------|------|-----------------------|---------|------|
| Agar-agar | 12 | 0 | Kola | 4 | 1 |
| Albumen, blood ... | 4 | 4 | Lime-juice | 20 | 0 |
| Aloes— | | | Liquorice-root | 30 | 0 |
| Cape | 83 | 52 | Loofahs | 7 | 0 |
| Zanzibar | 65 | 65 | Manna | 2 | 0 |
| Ambergris | 6 | 1 | Mastich | 2 | 2 |
| Aniseed | 52 | 0 | Musk | 3 | 1 |
| Annatto-seed | 7 | 7 | Myrrh | 21 | 0 |
| Antimony | 40 | 0 | Oil— | | |
| Apricot-kernels ... | 7 | 0 | bergamot | 1 | 0 |
| Areca | 63 | 0 | cajuput | 10 | 0 |
| Asafetida | 16 | 0 | cananga | 1 | 0 |
| Balsam Copaiba ... | 11 | 10 | citronella | 80 | 40 |
| Peru | 2 | 0 | cod-liver | 10 | 0 |
| Tolu | 26 | 26 | eucalyptus | 71 | 23 |
| Benzoïn— | | | fish | 1 | 0 |
| Pelembang | 25 | 0 | lemon | 1 | 0 |
| Siam | 3 | 3 | lime | 8 | 8 |
| Sumatra | 55 | 13 | nutmeg | 8 | 0 |
| Buchu | 66 | 19 | orange | 6 | 0 |
| Calumba | 10 | 0 | patchouli | 5 | 0 |
| Camphor (Jap. ref.) | 76 | 51 | peppermint | 25 | 0 |
| Canella alba | 10 | 0 | rose (E. I.) | 7 | 1 |
| Cannabis indica ... | 25 | 0 | Orchella-weed | 30 | 0 |
| Cantharides (China) | 25 | 4 | Orris | 5 | 0 |
| Cardamoms | 149 | 29 | Ox-tongues | 40 | 0 |
| Cascara sagrada ... | 167 | 60 | Pareira brava | 10 | 2 |
| Cashew-nuts | 12 | 0 | Patchouli | 8 | 0 |
| Cassia fistula | 52 | 0 | Poppy-heads | 100 | 0 |
| Cinchona | 63 | 0 | Rhubarb— | | |
| Civet | 3 | 0 | China | 82 | 4 |
| Coca-leaves | 10 | 5 | English | 38 | 15 |
| Colocynth | 4 | 0 | "Roots" | 35 | 35 |
| Coriander | 40 | 0 | Saffron | 8 | 8 |
| Croton-seed | 26 | 0 | Sarsaparilla | 46 | 5 |
| Cuscuta | 3 | 0 | Sassafras-root (cwt.) | 140 | 0 |
| Cuttle-fish bone ... | 63 | 44 | Scablae | 31 | 31 |
| Divi-divi | 3 | 3 | Seedlac | 7 | 0 |
| Dragon's blood | 4 | 0 | Senna— | | |
| Egg-yolk | 1 | 0 | Timnevelly | 509 | 488 |
| Elemi | 32 | 0 | Soy | 20 | 0 |
| Ergot | 22 | 3 | Squill | 27 | 22 |
| Guaiacum | 5 | 5 | Sticklac | 87 | 0 |
| Gentian | 5 | 5 | Tamarinds | 5 | 5 |
| Gum arabic | 67 | 15 | Tonka-beans | 8 | 0 |
| Henbane ext. (cs) | 6 | 0 | Turmeric | 162 | 117 |
| Henbane-leaves ... | 14 | 0 | Wax (bees)— | | |
| Honey— | | | Australian | 2 | 0 |
| Jamaica | 103 | 65 | East Indian | 47 | 15 |
| New Zealand ... | 10 | 60 | Italian | 14 | 0 |
| Insect flowers | 50 | 0 | Jamaica | 7 | 5 |
| Ipecacuanha— | | | Madagascar | 156 | 55 |
| Johore | 11 | 3 | Mogador | 51 | 0 |
| Rio (Matto Grosso) | 33 | 0 | Mombassa | 8 | 0 |
| Rio (Minas) | 21 | 10 | South Amer. ... | 2 | 2 |
| Jalap | 36 | 35 | Spanish | 11 | 0 |
| Kamala | 7 | 0 | Zanzibar | 190 | 54 |
| Kino | 25 | 0 | Wax, Japanese ... | 50 | 50 |

ALBUMEN.—Four cases of pale brown to dark blood-albumen sold, without reserve, at 6d. per lb.

ALOES.—The offerings were more interesting than usual, comprising 88 packages of *Cape*, the bulk of which sold at a decline of 2s. 6d. per cwt. Good to fine bright hard firsts brought from 27s. 6d. to 28s., fair to good seconds, slightly gritty, 25s. to 26s. 6d., and ordinary dull and drossy 24s. 6d. per cwt. Of Socotrine aloes, or so-called red Zanzibars, 40 large cases were shown, more or less in liquid condition, and all sold at cheap prices. Three cases consisting of fair hard red, brought 42s. to 43s., and for the remainder from 19s. to 30s. was paid, according to condition and quality. A further lot of 25 cases of Zanzibar hepatics, in kerosene-tins, was also offered, and sold at from 28s. to 28s. 6d. per cwt. for fair softish to hard hepatic, but partly false packed with soft black mass, which greatly detracted the value.

AMBERGRIS.—A tin containing one nodule of weak flavour weighing about 10 oz. sold at 21s. per oz.

ANNATTO.—A further 1d. per lb. advance was paid to-day, 7 bags of dull to fair Madras selling at from 6d. to 7d. per lb.

ANTIMONY.—Forty cases of Japanese crude were held at 17l.

ARECA.—The price for good bold Ceylon is 16s. per cwt. **BALSAM COPAIBA.**—Nine barrels good pale filtered Pará sold at 1s. 3½d. per lb.

BALSAM PERU.—Genuine quality of direct import was held for 4s. 5d. per lb.

BALSAM TOLU sold cheaply, 18 cases of fair slightly softish, in large tins, realising from 10d. to 11d. per lb., and for drossy to slightly drossy from 8½d. to 9½d. was paid.

BENZOIN.—Slow of sale. Fine quality of Sumatra gum is still scarce. At auction to-day 3 cases of good fair almondy Sumatra seconds sold at 7l. 2s. 6d. per cwt. Fair seconds were bought in at 5l. 15s., and middling at from 92s. 6d. to 5l. Two cases of Siam thirds siftings sold at 90s. per cwt. This was a parcel some fifteen years old, which had been returned from the Continent. For a case of pea-size almonds and siftings in hard block 6l. 5s. was paid without reserve.

BUCHU was steady. For fine green round quality, of which little was offered, 8d. per lb. was wanted, and for good green 7½d. to 7¾d. was paid. Eleven bales of round yellow leaf sold at from 6½d. to 6¾d.

CANTHARIDES.—Twenty-one cases Chinese were bought in at from 2s. 2d. to 2s. 4d., and for 4 cases broken and damaged 1s. 1d. to 1s. 2d. was paid without reserve.

A report from Hong-Kong, dated November 4, states that the stock is *nil*, the price quoted being \$95 per picul.

CARDAMOMS.—Supplies were on a much reduced scale to-day, and what little sold were not sufficient to make a market. Ceylon-Mysore medium pale sold at 1s. 1d., small 9d., brown and split 6½d. A few other odd lots sold at from 8d. to 11d., and 17 cases Ceylon-Mysore sold without reserve, "with all faults," at from 5d. to 1s. 4d. per lb. Small to bold heavy *Wild* Ceylons sold at 1s. 4d. per lb. for 3 cases. No adequate sales of *Seed* were made in auction, and privately 11d. to 1s. is quoted for good Bombay seed.

CASCARA SAGRADA.—One lot of 3 tons odd sold cheaply at 33s. per cwt. for fair bright one-year-old bark, gross for net. For another parcel of one-year-old 36s. was wanted.

COCA-LEAVES.—Middling Ceylon were held at 10d. per lb., and for country damaged 3d. to 4d. was paid.

CUTTLEFISH-BONE.—Fourteen cases of fair pale whole bone sold, without reserve, at 5½d. per lb. Good bold bone was held at 8d. per lb., and for 30 mats of small broken 1¼d. was paid.

DRAGON'S-BLOOD.—Only fair bright thin reed was offered, for which 8l. 15s. per cwt. was wanted. Good lump is extremely scarce privately.

GENTIAN.—Five bales ordinary lean sold at 15s. 6d. per cwt.

GUAIACUM.—For drossy and broken block 7½d. per lb., subject, was paid for 5 boxes.

GUM ARABIC.—Nine bales of small to bold pale to amber sorts sold at 24s. per cwt.

HENBANE.—For 14 cases of English leaves 1s. per lb. was asked, and for 6 cases of *Extract* 1s. 2d. per lb. was wanted.

HONEY.—Jamaica sold at steady prices, from 18s. 6d. to 21s. being paid for partly yellow to brown set to setting. Sixty cases of fair white set New Zealand honey sold at 50s. per cwt., and for a further 20 cases of good set a bid of 36s. was wanted.

IPECACUANHA.—Steady. The balance of a previous consignment of Johore ipecac. was offered to-day, of which several lots found buyers at 5s. 3d. per lb. for good native plump picked root. Ten bales of Rio (Minas) sold at 5s. per lb. for mostly good stout cultivated, but for Matto Grosso no progress could be made in auction, from 5s. 3d. to 5s. 4d. being wanted for ordinary to fair. Several sales were afterwards made privately. No Cartagena was offered, and privately 5s. is asked, at which price it is difficult to do business when Rio can be bought for this figure.

JALAP sold at irregular prices, 4½d. being paid for 6 bags of common rough mixed partly wormy Vera Cruz, and for 30 bags of fair 4½d. was paid; privately 5d. is asked.

KINO.—Fine black grain from Madras was firmly held at 1s. per lb.

KOLA.—One bag of small to bold fair bright Ceylon sold at 4d. per lb.

LIME-JUICE.—Three casks of fair West Indian unworked sold at 9d. per gal.

MASTICH.—Two cases of yellow tear sold, without reserve, at 1s. 1d. per lb.

MYRRH.—Two bales of fair dusty siftings were held at 80s. per cwt., at which sales have been made. Privately fair sorts are quoted 92s. 6d.

OILS, ESSENTIAL.—For 40 cases of *Citronella* oil, John Fisher's brand from Singapore, 2s. 3d. per lb. was paid, one lot selling at 2s. 4d. For another parcel of 40 cases of the same brand offered by another broker, 5 cases sold at 1½d. per oz. *Cajuput* oil, of fair green Singapore quality, was limited at 3s. 9d. per bottle. Five cases of Fishers *Patchouli* oil were limited at 1s. 4d. per oz., and for Fisher's *Nutmeg* oil 2½d. per oz. was wanted. Ten cases of American H.G.H. *Peppermint* oil were held at 17s. per lb., and privately fair quantities have been sold at 15s. 6d. per lb. for *tin* oil. Ten cases of Japanese demethylised "Kobayashi" brand were bought in at 6s. 3d. per lb. *Lime oil* sold at steady rates, 1s. 3d. being paid for two parcels of West Indian distilled, while for hand-pressed, of which one case only offered, 2s. 9d. was wanted, a bid of 2s. 8d. being refused. *Eucalyptus* oil containing 70 per cent. cineol sold at 1s. 2d. per lb. to the extent of 53 cases.

PEREIRA BRAVA.—A parcel of fair was held at 28s. per cwt., and for 2 bales of spurious 9s. per cwt. was accepted, without reserve.

PATCHOULI-LEAVES were held for 6d. per lb.

RHUBARB.—Quiet. Four cases of medium to bold round Shensi, with three-quarters fair pinky fracture, slightly dullish coat, sold, without reserve, at 1s. 5d. per lb. Small to bold flat High-dried, with three-quarters fair pinky fracture, was held at 1s.; and for good small to medium round Canton 1s. 3d. was asked, flat being held at the same price. Ten bags of English cuttings sold at 3½d., and for medium round English of good colour 4½d. to 5d. per lb. was paid.

"ROOTS" (Wild "Ipecac.")—The consignment of 35 bales, to which previous reference has been made, was to-day sold to several buyers "without reserve" at from ½d. to ¾d. per lb., if pay charges.

SAFFRON.—In the drug-auctions 8 tins of ordinary "loaded" Valencia sold at 16s. per lb. without reserve.

SARSAPARILLA.—Grey Jamaica was not offered. Of 21 bales Lima-Jamaica 5 sold at 10½d. per lb. for coarse and part chunky, these prices being steady. Dull to fair red Native Jamaica was bought in at from 8d. to 11d. Privately Mexican is quoted higher at 5d., c.i.f.

SCABLAC sold at steady prices, 6l. 15s. per cwt. being paid for fair rather dusty Madras scabs.

SEEDLAC.—Dark siftings were limited at 6l. 10s. per cwt.

SENA.—Timnevelly sold at about steady prices, the quality not being at all desirable. Ordinary small specky sea-damaged to middling sold at from 1½d. to 1¾d., fair bolder 2d. to 2½d., and one lot greenish 2½d. *Pods* sold at from 1½d. to 2d. per lb.

SOYILL.—Sixteen bags of ordinary sold, without reserve, at 1½d. per lb.; and 10 bags had been sold privately.

STICKLAC.—Small Calcutta, free from wood, was bought in at 8l. 10s. per cwt.

TAMARINDS.—Five casks of dry West Indian sold at 5s. per cwt., subject.

TONKA BEANS.—Good bold frosted Angosturas were bought in at 2s. 6d., a bid of 2s. 4d. being refused; and 2 cases of fair frosted Parás from Liverpool were limited at 1s. 3d. per lb.

TURMERIC.—Privately small sales of good Rajapore have been made at 17s. 6d. per cwt. In auction 162 bags mostly sold at 10s. per cwt. for dull bulby Madras finger, and 5s. 6d. for middling bulbs.

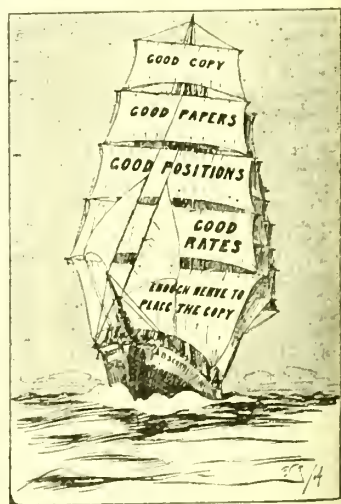
WAX, BEES'.—Jamaica was in extremely small supply, and sold at about 2s. 6d. per cwt. dearer rates, considering quality, from 7l. 5s. to 7l. 10s. being paid for mostly ordinary grey and brown wax. Madagascar was firm, good pale yellow to dark block selling in quantity at from 6l. 17s. 6d. to 7l., fair at 6l. 15s., ordinary dark and wormy at 6l. 10s. 6d. to 6l. 12s. 6d., and low wormy at 70s. Good Zanzibar block sold at 6l. 14s. per cwt. Of East Indian wax, 6 cases of unsorted Bombay sold at 5l. 17s. 6d. per cwt., and for another lot of slightly wormy 6l. was paid. Two barrels pale to dark South American sold at 6l. 17s. 6d. per cwt.

WAX, JAPANESE. was several shillings lower, compared with prices asked privately, 51s. 6d. being paid without reserve for 50 cases of good pale squares.

HOW TO SAIL YOUR "BARK" TO SUCCESS.

The sketch is a reproduction of the "Cartoon of the Night" in No. 5 of "The Sphinx," presented to the members of the Sphinx Club on Wednesday evening. It is the embodiment of a telegram sent from Paris by Mr. Alfred B. Scott (Scott & Bowne, Ltd.), Vice-President of the Club, read at the November meeting.

"Very sorry unable to be present this evening. Referring to the discussion of this evening please remember that the success of advertising agents and the Press depends upon the advertiser, and as this is so simple will tell you the secret. Good copy, good papers, good rates, good positions, and enough nerve to place copy. A. B. SCOTT."



At this week's dinner Mr. J. Morgan Richards took the chair as President and, thanks to Mr. Balch, another original feast was submitted to the members in another novel and artistic manner. In the course of the evening's discussion it was stated that Mr. Thomas Beecham's largest advertising expenditure in one year was something over 110,000l., and for medicine-stamps 32,000l. It was also mentioned by Mr. Newton Crane, barrister-at-law, that the first displayed advertisement inserted in the "Times" was one of Scott's emulsion.



TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Please write clearly and concisely on one side of the paper only. All communications should be accompanied by the names and addresses of the writers. If queries are submitted, each should be written on a separate piece of paper. We do not reply to queries by post, and can only answer on subjects of general interest.

Historical Chemistry.

SIR,—In reply to the letter of Mr. M. M. Pattison Muir, published in your issue of December 3, concerning the review of his "Elements of Chemistry," may the reviewer be permitted to say that he has not studied Kopp so negligently and to so little purpose as Mr. Muir imagines he has established? Kopp in 1875, at the age of fifty-eight, had consulted many original literary sources and had derived from these, at first hand, much information at variance with statements of compilers, which he had accepted in 1845, at the less mature age of twenty-eight, and had published in his "Geschichte der Chemie." If Mr. Muir will take the trouble to turn to Kopp's "Beitraege zur Geschichte der Chemie," Vol. III. (1875), page 241, he will find it there stated that at the place where Paracelsus employs the words "air arises, and breaks forth like a wind," there is no mention either of a metal or of oil of vitriol.

As regards Rey, Mr. Muir answers himself when he says "that anyone who reads the essay carefully will perceive that Rey had formed no clear picture in his mind of the action of air on a metal during calcination." This view is undoubtedly well founded, but it is obviously irreconcilable with the explicit statement in "The Elements of Chemistry" that Rey "tried to prove that when tin or lead is calcined, particles of air attach themselves to the metal and cause the calx to weigh more than the metal before calcination." Neither from the passage which Mr. Muir quotes from page 40 of the English translation of Rey's Essays nor from the original French is it at all clear that Rey ever supposed air to unite with lead itself; whereas in an earlier part of the same paragraph as that from which the quotation is taken, calx of lead is mentioned, quite definitely, twice, and in one case this calx of lead—not lead itself—is referred to as becoming heavier after treatment with fire, while in the other case it is referred to as increasing in weight because of the addition of matter. Increase in weight because of particles of air attaching themselves to the metal is not even suggested.

THE REVIEWER.

Compromise.

SIR,—There being little chance of last Session's Bill with Clause 7 passing as a private measure, and a good chance with a modified Clause 7, why not compromise? Surely the rest of the Bill is worth a little sacrifice? The compromise I suggest is: (1) at least two qualified chemists as directors of each company; (2) a stiffening of clauses relating to the actual management—of far more importance. I think, than a qualified directorate; (3) non-interference with Poisons Acts unless to add to them. The "stiffening" should embrace the following:

(a) That in all joint-stock companies, co-operative and benefit societies carrying on the business of chemists as a "department" of a general business, the manager of the chemists' department (directly responsible to the board of directors) and the head of dispensing department shall be qualified chemists.

(b) That in all joint-stock companies, co-operative and benefit societies carrying on the business of chemists as their principal business, the managing director, general, assistant, and branch managers, divisional or district managers or inspectors, and heads of dispensing departments be qualified chemists.

So far as I can see if Clause 7 were law to-morrow, there is nothing to prevent limited companies appointing dummy directors from their present staff of qualified men, the actual management remaining as at present in the hands of unqualified persons; the only change being these un-

qualified persons would drop the title of managing director and take some other.

Yours faithfully

SIDE LIGHT. (66/17.)

[Perhaps our correspondent will tell us why drug companies so persistently oppose Clause 7, and all that hangs to it, if it would be so easy getting round it.—EDITOR.]

"The 'Daily Mail' on Substitution."

SIR,—I was glad to see your correspondents "A Lover of Fair Play" and Mr. J. E. McVitie drawing attention to this subject in last week's issue of your valuable journal. I am happy to inform "A Lover of Fair Play" that I acted on his suggestion twelve months ago (at the time of the previous articles on the same subject) and gave up taking the paper entirely, and have since found an equally good one (at the same price) giving the news of the day in a concise form suitable to business men. I hope, after this latest outbreak, that there will be very few chemists with any self-respect to support such a despicable paper.

Yours faithfully,

Crouch End, N., December 5. D. ANDERSON.

The Benevolent Fund.

SIR,—According to the abstract of rules in reference to votes at the election of pharmaceutical annuitants, a subscriber of 2s. 6d. is entitled to one vote and proportionately upwards. I believe that most, if not all, chemists and druggists, whether subscribers to the Benevolent Fund or not, are in full sympathy with its aim and objects. How to stimulate greater interest and influence additional support on behalf of the fund is a problem which has frequently taxed the ingenuity of its best friends, and is one that deserves the continued attention of all well-wishers. Now, Mr. Editor, in my opinion the system of voting is one that is calculated somewhat to narrow the sympathies and curtail interest on the part of many who otherwise would probably do more to help on the good work. Why to a certain extent should the small subscriber be disfranchised? A 2s. 6d. subscription to some may mean more than a 10s. 6d. contribution from a more wealthy donor. Let us not be too conservative in the working of such a noble fund. Give the smallest subscriber a vote for each of the annuitants to be elected. If there are two or four or six to be elected, let him have a vote for each. Much might be said on the question of putting the whole of the voting on a level with the Parliamentary franchise. My object, however, in writing is to urge the desirability of giving to every subscriber an opportunity of voting for each of the annuitants to be elected. In this way, in my opinion, more voting-papers would be returned, greater interest secured, and increased financial aid obtained.

Faithfully yours,

G. H. (66/31.)

Quack Medicines 100 Years Ago.

SIR.—In reply to your correspondent 46/8 I would suggest "Gray's Supplement" as a possible solution of his difficulty. In the preface to that work the author intimates that the medicines treated of therein are divisible into three classes: (1) *Euporista*, or simple herbal remedies; (2) *Officinals*, or shop-preparations; and (3) *Nostrums*, or patent medicines. "the preparation of which is not generally known, and which are made only by particular persons who keep their preparation a secret, or at least deny that it is known. Many of these nostrums being in great request, the wholesale druggists are in the habit of supplying their customers with imitations of them, respecting which the author has procured the receipts of many of the most respectable houses in London." A glance through the pages of this comprehensive and almost indispensable book of reference reveals the presence of formulæ for practically all the familiar favourites of our forefathers, such as Bateman's drops, Daffy's elixir, Dalby's carminative, Dutch drops, Godfrey's cordial, Hooper's pills, Huxham's bark, Marshall's cerate, Oxley's ginger, Roche's embrocation, Singleton's ointment, Whitehead's mustard, and many others too numerous to mention.

Yours truly,

Brighton, November 19.

C. S. ASHTON.

[This was one of the books we brought under our inquirer's notice.—EDITOR.]

The Death-dealer.

SIR,—The ordinary wheat-dresser is a very modest-looking little package—far less pretentious than a tin of sheep-dip. The last I saw was block-wrapped in brown paper, with an orange-coloured label covering one side and both ends. Inside was a pound of a pleasant-looking blue powder containing 25 per cent. of arsenic. But the modest are not always kept in the background, and, if certain excellent people have their way, the little wheat-dresser will come to the front in a new character, its sphere will be enlarged, its influence increased, it will take its place among the murderers, have an effigy at Madame Tussaud's, and rank above laudanum and carbolic acid as a death-dealer. Of course the good people referred to do not confess their sympathy with the wheat-dresser and its aspirations. They are for justice. They are attacking that wicked and wealthy monopolist and outrageous extortioner the chemist, who, although he numbers twenty thousand persons and has no real monopoly at all, manages to form a "ring" to keep up the price of poisons. It would be discourteous to suggest that the good people are talking nonsense. It would be rude to point out that the persons who most ardently desire to place effigies of the sheep-dip, the weed-killer, and the wheat-dresser in the Chamber of Horrors are not dispossessed traders sighing for the enormous profits to be made out of poisons. Nor are they farmers and horticulturists who attribute the present agricultural depression to the expense and difficulty of obtaining poisonous necessities. They are not workers who are seriously inconvenienced by the restrictions at present surrounding the sale of the more dangerous poisons. All that they want is to sell their death-dealing stuff, and as the men whom the law has educated to the dangers of it do not buy as they like, its sale is pushed among the little shopkeepers who know nothing of such things. Some day—well, it is like firearms. One fool plays with a loaded gun and nothing happens; a hundred do so, and there are one or two accidents. If one ignorant shopkeeper keeps poisons, probably nothing will happen. If a thousand do so, a few calamities will result. Let ten thousand do so, and the few will be multiplied by ten, in spite of wise (!) restrictions. Who is to pay the forfeit which fate will demand? Will it be a life precious to me or to the reader? A life dear to that energetic reformer of his country's laws, Mr. Cross, M.P.; or to that equally energetic solicitor, Mr. Dobbs? Probably not: the poor pay most of these forfeits. Is it to be? British stupidity in clinging to worn-out maxims is always struggling to suppress British common sense. Will it succeed with this last dangerous and retrograde folly? What will be the cost? Twenty lives a year is a low estimate. And who will benefit? Not shopkeepers, not farmers, not gardeners, not professional users of poisons. Just a few manufacturers who would rather have to deal with an ignorant than an intelligent retailer. They are so polite as to say that a gardener is a better judge of a weed-killer than a chemist. So he would be if the only method of testing were to pour it on by rule of thumb and see what happens. The agitation for free trade in poisons comes entirely from men who desire to see the trade taken out of the hands of retailers who know the market-value of crude chemicals, who can make a rough guess at the composition of a mixture by simple observation, who can analyse it if necessary, and who—worst crime of all—are fastidious about the effectiveness of the preparations they sell.

Yours, truly,

FOUNTAIN. (48/17.)

Leo H. Grindon.

SIR,—In the removal of this amiable and gifted member of society Manchester has lost one of its most remarkable characters, whose influence for good can scarcely be overestimated. As an intelligent observer of Nature and a faithful recorder of facts illustrating the beauties and wonders of creation, whether of the heavens above or the earth and waters below—all things within the ken of mortal eye—Leo Grindon was without a rival. Always on the lookout for the beautiful and true, his intellectual conscientiousness forbade the acceptance of anything that did not reach this standard. Emerson's axiom "Beauty is a necessity of Nature" was a great fact in Grindon's everyday life, a pervading influence manifesting itself in his "walk and con-

versation," and expressed in the index of his mind and in tones of unaffected kindness. The chief charm of Grindon was revealed in company with friends—his sparkling conversation, ready wit, and good-humour, like a ray of sunshine, conveying happiness on all around. To accompany this eminent field naturalist on a tramp "through bog or dense or rare" was a treat never to be forgotten. He knew every plant and its habitat, and great was the rejoicing when some of the rarer specimens were discovered; then followed a dissertation on the structure and properties of each, and they were taken home, arranged, and placed in a *hortus sicus* for future reference. Besides professional engagements, Mr. Grindon was a member of the Chorlton-on-Medlock Essay and Discussion Society, of which I am now the only survivor. Several years since Mr. Grindon had an accident (dislocation of the wrist), and said of it, "I am thus deprived of two-thirds of my income." However, he received 100*l.* from Government in recognition of valuable service by his works, numbering twenty-two volumes. It is satisfactory to know that Mrs. Grindon is still an active worker on the same lines as those of her honoured husband, of whom it may be truly said:

He was a man, taking him all for all,
We ne'er shall look upon again.

R. GOODWIN MUMBRAY.

Legal Queries.

Labels to be marked "Liable" or "Not liable" to medicine stamp-duty should be sent to the Editor in duplicate and with a stamped and addressed envelope for return of the marked ones, if desired.

65/44. *Medicus*.—(1) The General Medical Council no longer recognises the Pharmaceutical Preliminary examination for registration *pro tanto* as a medical student. (2) The Apothecaries' Hall, Ireland, grants a licentiate in midwifery, as well as another Irish body.

39/2. *T. N.*—Guessing, *e.g.*, the number of pills in a bottle for prizes is not a lottery, or a game of chance, but an exercise in skill and knowledge, therefore legal.

64/66. *Senex* asks: "Large vases filled with coloured or uncoloured water, representing, and labelled, flavouring essences. Are these lawful? or could an inspector demand to be served from these particular vases, with consequent prosecution for refusal to sell?" It is quite lawful to expose such "dummies." If an inspector demand to be served with such stuff after the matter has been explained to him by all means serve him, and label somewhat as follows: "An imitation of Essence of Ginger as exposed for advertising-purposes in my window, and not for sale to the public."

69/22. *Osmunda*.—"The part affected to be bathed with warm water, and rubbed with the oils night and morning" is not a dutiable description, nor does it hold out the preparation for an ailment.

28/26. *Rus*.—The Board of Inland Revenue's statement is that the disclosure has to be put on the label of any known, admitted, and approved remedy. They say nothing about the wrapper in which the packet is enclosed, but it may save you and the Board trouble if you put the disclosure there also.

Dispensing Notes.

Dispensing Insoluble Substances.

SIR,—Mr. Leadbeater's paper on this subject is both interesting and useful. I have had to dispense chloral-amide on many occasions, generally in 20-grain doses. It has been ordered to be suspended or in powder to be dissolved in whisky or brandy at the time of taking. The use of alcohol being objected to by one prescriber, I adopted the idea of allowing the chloralamide gradually to dissolve in cold water to the extent of 20 grains to the ounce. For that purpose I have two 40-oz. shop-rounds in use, one with the chloralamide dissolved, the other with the chloralamide dissolving, which process I calculate will be completed by the time the former bottle is empty. It takes some weeks to complete solution, but the time is well spent on account of the increased therapeutic effect. This method is of

course most suitable for dispensary-work where the dispenser is in constant contact with the prescriber; as a general method it might not be applicable, because there might be an absence of uniformity in dispensing—in one case the mixture would probably be clear and in another thick. Bismuth salicylate has given me some trouble on account of the different kinds supplied by the makers. I have had a light white and a dull grey heavy kind sent me. I am informed the former is French and the latter English made. I have found the light white variety answer more correctly the ferric-chloride test of the Pharmacopœia. For dispensing I prefer this kind, because when the prescription contains some tinctures or spirituous preparation all that is necessary is to place the salicylate in the bottle and add the tinctures diluted with an equal quantity of water. On shaking, the salicylate diffuses so readily that it is not really necessary to add mucilage; the addition, although an improvement in some cases, is by no means a *sine qua non*. I have found the heavier kind clog and become unmanageable. For stock purposes I keep a mixture containing 40 grains to each ounce, with 40 minims of rectified spirit.

Yours faithfully,

London, W., December 6.

GEORGE ROE.

A Colour Change.

SIR,—The mixture for which I subjoin formula I find will not keep well. Though made in many different ways, result is the same: it turns first sherry-colour, then dark wine, and in a few weeks throws down a black precipitate. Can you suggest any method of preventing this without seriously altering the formula?—for I have a good sale and an excellent local reputation for this mixture as a remedy for malaria.

| | | | | |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|---------|
| Quinin. sulph. | ... | ... | ... | gr. xl. |
| Caffein. cit. | ... | ... | ... | gr. xx. |
| Ac. carbol. liq. | ... | ... | ... | ℥x. |
| Ac. nit. hyd. dil. | ... | ... | ... | 5℥j. |
| Tr. nuc. vom. | ... | ... | ... | 5℥j. |
| Spt. æth. nit. | ... | ... | ... | 5℥ij. |
| Aq. ad | ... | ... | ... | 3xij. |

M.

3j. pro dose.

YORKER. (51/62.)

[A series of reactions is possible in this mixture. The chloro-nitrous acid acts on the carbolic acid, on the quinine, and on the nux vomica. Spirit of nitrous ether does somewhat the same, and there is no means of preventing the changes except to omit the nitrous constituents. It would be best to dissolve the quinine with the help of citric acid, and add a little flavouring in place of the sweet nitre—say, sherry.]

Miscellaneous Inquiries.

We endeavour to reply promptly and practically to trade questions of general interest, but cannot guarantee insertion of replies on a particular date, nor can we repeat information given during the past twelve months.

2/11. R. F. I.—Perfume for Carbolic Tooth-powder.—A mixture of camphor (5ss.), otto of rose (℥x.) or geranium oil (℥xv.), and oil of cloves (5ss.) is generally preferred, the quantities in parentheses being an average quantity for a pound of basis.

33/71. Lomar.—(1) **Drying-application for Cow's Udders.** A lotion of alum 2 oz., water 1 pint, suitably coloured, as supplied for this purpose, but it is advisable to give alum internally at the same time—4 oz. in 3 pints of warm water, twice a week. (2) **Embrocation for Hard Udders.**—When a cow's udder becomes hard and painful, the inflammation is treated by fomentation followed by the application of glycerin of belladonna, the udder being at the same time supported by a bandage. Simple induration of the udder is treated by the application of oleate of mercury (20 per cent.), and internally potassium iodide 5j. in water Oj. daily for a week. (3) **Gape-powder for Poultry.**—The powder used for fumigating fowls with gapes is precipitated chalk with 10 per cent. of carbolic acid. Some powders contain sulphur in addition. You should supplement this reply by reading an instructive article on this affection which appeared in the *C. & D.*, August 9, 1902, page 246.

27/8. J. M. A.—**Dull Black for Metal Sheaths.**—This is managed by painting with a mixture of lamp-black and varnish thinned with turpentine. A chemical method consists in first cleaning with weak sulphuric acid and then boiling the sheaths in a bath of sodium hyposulphite 5vj., copper sulphate 5iv., water Oj.

35/28. Timon.—**Glycerin-jelly.**—It is quite possible that the gelatin used in making the glycerin jelly had become infected by ill-smelling bacteria, and caused the disagreeable smell to develop. It is to sterilise the gelatin that heat is used in making glycerin jelly, but care has to be taken not to continue the heat for too long, or the setting powers of the gelatin would be diminished.

31/29. J. G.—**Books on Cheese-making.**—Oliver and Barron's "Cheese and Butter Making," 1s. (Bemrose); Long and Benson's "Cheese and Cheese-making," 3s. 6d. (Chapman & Hall); Oliver's "Milk, Cheese, and Butter," 7s. 6d. (Lockwood).

30/56. G. H. B.—**Lotion for Bad Leg.**—The following is founded on an analysis of your sample, although we find there is not the quantity of precipitate in the resulting lotion that there is in the specimen you send. On keeping, however, we find the lotion changes somewhat:

| | | | | |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----|--------|
| Sanitas | ... | ... | ... | 5j. |
| Tr. opii | ... | ... | ... | 5ss. |
| Alum. sulph. | ... | ... | ... | 5ss. |
| Zinci sulph. | ... | ... | ... | gr. x. |
| Aquam ad | ... | ... | ... | 5viij. |

34/57. D. W.—The ointment you send (without any particulars of its use) is of a similar composition to ung. resinæ plus a small proportion of ext. bellad.

32/44. Allen.—**Chilblain-emollient.**—This is a tragacanth cream, the following formula giving a like preparation:

| | | | | |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Pulv. tragacanth. | ... | ... | ... | 5ij. |
| Spt. vini rect. | ... | ... | ... | 5ss. |
| Glycerini | ... | ... | ... | 5iij. |
| Aq. rosæ | ... | ... | ... | 5vj. |

Mix the tragacanth with the spirit in a mortar, then add the glycerin and water, previously mixed, and stir till uniform.

7/9. S. J. B.—**The Brown Oils** used for rheumatism is rather a complicated mixture to examine. There are present acetic acid, camphor, turpentine, and extract of belladonna, but we have not carried our analysis to the quantitative stage.

37/72. C. S. S. M. D.—(1) We have seen it stated that Ammonal is a mixture of acetanilid, sodium bicarbonate ammonium bicarbonate, and metanil-yellow, but the makers of the article say it is "ammoniated-phenylacetamide." (2) **Black Ink:**

| | | | | |
|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|----------|
| Bruised Aleppo galls | ... | ... | ... | 15 lbs. |
| Sulphate of iron | ... | ... | ... | 10 lbs. |
| Gum arabic | ... | ... | ... | 20 lbs. |
| River-water | ... | ... | ... | 20 gals. |

In a cylindrical copper boiler as deep as it is wide put the galls with 15 gals. of water. Cover the boiler and raise the liquor to boiling, maintaining that temperature for three hours, adding boiling water from time to time to replace that which is evaporated. At the end of the three hours draw off the liquor and let it deposit, and add to the clear solution the droppings from the marc on a filter. Separately dissolve the gum in as little warm water as will take it up, and add this to the gall decoction. In the remainder of the water dissolve the sulphate of iron, and stir this solution in with the rest.

There is a representative selection of formulæ for ink in "Pharmaceutical Formulas," Vol. I. (3) Easton's syrup and Fellows's syrup should be registered when sold. This precaution is sometimes disregarded, but the sale is then illegal. (4) If you write to the office of Kelly's Directories, 182-4 High Holborn, W.C., a note will be made of your name for the next edition of their Chemists and Druggists Directory.

254/36. Nemo.—**Moustache-fixer:**

| | | | | |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Mastic | ... | ... | ... | 5ij. |
| Sandarac | ... | ... | ... | 5ss. |
| Resin | ... | ... | ... | 5iss. |
| Rectified spirit | ... | ... | ... | 5iij. |
| Ess. bouquet | ... | ... | ... | 5ss. |
| Ether | ... | ... | ... | 5ij. |

Dissolve and filter.

Colonial and Foreign News.

38/10. *Jean*.—Casein size, which is now much used in paper-making and other industries, is rendered insoluble by exposure to formalin. We believe, however, that the process is covered by a patent.

43/13. *Digitalis*.—The dose of heroin for adults is $\frac{1}{12}$ to $\frac{1}{8}$ grain twice or thrice a day. The dose for a horse would be from 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ grain. The solubility of the salt is 1 in 350 of water and 1 in 19 of (90-per-cent.) alcohol.

52/6. *H. S. K.* (Bombay).—We prefer not to advise you how to manufacture ammonium picrate. There is a considerable element of danger in the process.

53/35. *Kerolia*.—Optical Examinations.—We gave particulars of these in our Educational number (August 15).

54/3. *J. A.*—We have asked Mr. J. Harcombe Cuff (25 Friern Barnet Road, New Southgate, N.), the Secretary of the Society of Chemist-Opticians, to send you a copy of the rules of the Society.

49/50. *Verax*.—Pure potassium ferrocyanide is not poisonous. It has been used medicinally in doses of 10 to 15 grains in phthisis, but is usually looked upon as physiologically inactive.

52/2. *D. D.*—The Hon. Secretary of the Affiliation of Photographic Societies, 66 Russell Square, W.C., will furnish you with model rules for your proposed photographic society.

50/8. *G. E. B. M.*—Linen-glazing Paste is prepared by making a thin jelly with curd soup and water by heat, and mixing in a small proportion of French chalk.

41/70. *Hirsute*.—Grey Patches on Brown Beard.—A strong ammoniacal solution of pyrogallol should be applied to the beard after washing with weak soda solution.

54/37. *W. C. D.*—There are several well-known dictionaries of quotations, but we do not know of any that contain quotations specially suitable for advertising foods, drugs, and perfumes. Could you not call at a public library in your city and see for yourself which would be best for your purpose?

52/61. *W. R. W.*—The massage-preparations, non-oily, that we have examined have been mostly in paste form with a tragacanth-mucilage basis.

57/64. *N. F. W.*—There has evidently been an error in regard to the price of Vine's "Botany." Messrs. Sonnenschein, being the publishers of the two editions (15s. and 9s.), must be accepted as the best authority as to the price.

54/48. *C. N. C.*—The prescription-envelope you send is an excellent specimen. Do you know the date of it?

46/62. *Parum Sap.*—(1) There is a description of the manufacture of Microphotographs in the "Photographic Reference-book," 1s. 6d. (Iliffe), which is too long for reproduction. The tiny pictures are mostly made on the Continent. (2) There were some splendid photographs of the moon on show at the Paris Exhibition in 1900. The photographs had been made by astronomers, but we do not remember by whom.

47/18. *Shelbourne*.—(1) A few grains of pulv. tragacanth. would probably give a stiffer framework to your pills. Try 12 grains for the gross batch. (2) Particulars of the Medical Preliminary of the College of Preceptors can be had from the Secretary of the College, Bloomsbury Square, W.C.

58/42. *D. C.*—Dragon's-blood is used simply as a colouring ingredient in harness-polishes. There is a formula for harness-polish in the *C. & D.*, July 16, page 98, in which you can replace the colouring-matter wholly or in part with dragon's-blood.

Information Wanted.

Postcard replies to any of subjoined inquiries will be esteemed.

66/90. Japanese enamels (cheap) for painting bird-cages: where obtainable?

69/5. Who are the makers of Dr. Booth's cough-lozenges?

68/47. Name of the manufacturer of Stone's Patent Pneumatic Diffuser.

SPANISH SPIRIT TRUST.—According to the "Estafeta Hispano-Americana," measures are being taken to form an alcohol trust in Spain. Agents are visiting the distilleries, collecting statistics and information as to conditions of labour, &c., with a view to formulating propositions for working on a common basis.

VASELINE IN RUSSIA.—The British Consul-General at Warsaw reports that Russian "vaseline" used in local hospitals has been found unsuitable for treatment of skin-disease, being too liquid, and the Warsaw Municipal Council has decided to buy imported vaseline from a leading druggist at 11½*d.* per lb. The import-duty on refined vaseline is 14*s.* 9½*d.* per cwt. gross weight.

BUSINESS CHANGE.—The partnership between Mr. Emilio Restrepo and Mr. Samuel Restrepo, trading as Restrepos & Tamayo (Farmacia Francesa), of Medellin, Colombia, has been dissolved. In future the business will be carried on by Mr. Lázaro Mejía, Mr. Jose J. Toro, Mr. Gustavo Restrepo, Mr. Alexandro Tamayo, and Mr. Ramon Peláez, under the style of "Messrs. Restrepos, Tamayo & Co."

SEYCHELLES VANILLA.—The Governor of the Seychelles has issued his first report on that Colony. It contains an interesting note on the vanilla-industry of 1903. Owing to a previous overstocked market, the results of the trade in 1903 were very depressing; and an abnormal drought in 1904 has placed the planters in a bad way, although prices are slightly improved, and the vines will feel the evil effects of the drought for another year or two.

JAPANESE CHEMICAL INDUSTRY.—Although chemical industry is in a flourishing condition in Japan, no prospects are offered to European chemists, says "Chemische Industrie," in consequence of the number of Japanese who have studied in Europe or at the high-schools in Tokio or Kioto. There are at present 840 factories in Japan employing chemists. Two of these undertakings employ over five hundred workmen, 86 over one hundred, 207 over fifty, and 348 have thirty men employed. Altogether there are 38,591 men and women at work in various chemical-works. The Japanese Government contributes largely towards promoting this branch of industry, and last year there were seventy-nine Government laboratories, whose duty it is to ascertain and impart the methods of making use of the numerous varieties of seaweed and other fishery-products which are so plentiful in Japanese waters.

IN THE ITALIAN RIVIERA.—The system in operation in Italy of limiting the number of pharmacies according to the supposed requirements of the various districts does not find anything like universal favour in the ranks of the pharmacists themselves. The younger men especially find it difficult to commence business on their own account, and



are compelled to remain as qualified assistants; consequently there is a growing agitation among them throughout the country for freedom of action in this respect. The photograph accompanying this note shows the rather caustic humour of a pharmacist who had been promised

the privilege of opening the next new pharmacy in a well-known Italian town. After a considerable time had elapsed and constant application he was told he might open, but the pharmacy must be in a district so far from the centre of the town and so sparsely populated that it would have been impossible to make a business pay. The authorities proving obdurate, a sarcastic sign was put up over a little tumble-down *café* that stood on the selected spot. The walls of "The Pharmacy of Health and International Wine-stores" are sadly in need of repair, and bear other notices of the wines, liquors, aerated waters, etc., sold within. It is satisfactory to note that, like the importunate widow, the pharmacist eventually gained the day, and he has now a modern up-to-date establishment in the business part of the city. But the *café* still rejoices in its attractive and suggestive title.—The want of an Italian "Chemist and Druggist" is strongly felt, for the inconveniences of not having a journal circulating among almost all the pharmacists are many. In England, for instance, we should not dream of looking in the morning paper when we wished to buy a pharmacy, the "C. & D." Supplement supplying what we need; but in one morning's "Secolo" among others were advertisements of two pharmacies for sale, the price of one being 800*l*.

East Indian News.

(From our own Correspondent.)

ACIDS AND GUNCOTTON are now being successfully manufactured at the cordite factory, Conoor.

THE BALLYGUNGE PHARMACY, which was started in the fashionable quarter of Ballygunge, Calcutta, India, in June, 1896, by Surgeon Lieut.-Colonel Monuk, I.M.S. (retired), has changed hands, and is now managed by Mr. O. C. Dover.

THE MANGANESE-MINING INDUSTRY of the Central Provinces, which has been very active during the past year or two, continues to develop, with the result that there is now a demand for improved methods for the removal of the produce of the mines.

OPIMUM-SMUGGLING AT SINGAPORE.—Several large seizures of opium have lately been made, and prosecutions instituted, at Singapore. The s.s. *Hongmoh* has been held to bail at \$150,000, and the quartermaster of the French mail-steamer *Le Seyne* has been convicted of smuggling opium.

FOODS, DRINKS, AND DRUGS.—A proposition is before the committee of the Bombay Corporation that articles of drink and of medicine should receive the same protection as articles of food, and that Government be asked to make them subject to a special Act. The health officer of Bombay, the chemical analyst to Government, and the municipal analyst have been asked to draw up a standard.

OPIMUM IN CEYLON.—The opium-licences in the Western Province of Ceylon for 1905 have recently been sold by Government, and the prices paid show an increase of close on 50 per cent. over those for 1904. This looks as if the check given to arrack by the recent "temperance" movement is counterbalanced by an increased use of opium, says the "Ceylon Observer."

ARSENIC-POISONING.—A Lahore telegram says that the wife and children of Dr. Benjamin, an American Episcopalian missionary, have been poisoned with arsenic administered by a native Christian schoolmaster. The motive for the crime, which was committed during Dr. Benjamin's absence, is stated to be revenge, the schoolmaster having recently been reprimanded by the doctor.

FIRE.—A fire broke out on Sunday night, November 13, on the premises occupied by Messrs. Bhiska Cullianjee & Co., wholesale and retail druggists, in Sheikh Memon Street, Bombay. The stocks of drugs on the top floor and loft at the rear of the shop were destroyed, while a considerable portion stored on the lower floors was damaged by fire and water. The damage caused by the outbreak is estimated at Rs. 50,000, which is covered by insurance. Mr. C. B. Robinson, of Messrs. Thomson, Taylor & Co., is assessing the loss sustained for the insurance agents.

BOMBAY HEALTH EXHIBITION.—Among the exhibitors at the forthcoming exhibition (see *C. & D.*, November 19, Coloured Supplement) will be the following: N. H. Patrick, milk-steriliser; Treacher & Co., Ltd., filters (Pasteur-Mallie); Kemp & Co., Ltd., proprietary specialities; the

Bayer Co., Ltd., somatose; MacDougall Brothers, disinfectants, soaps, etc.; R. N. Nana & Co., antiseptics, soaps, etc.; Thomson, Taylor & Co., izar; N. Powell & Co., surgical instruments and appliances; Professor T. K. Gajjar, chemical apparatus; Holy Soap Manufacturing Co., soaps, etc.; Diamond Jubilee Soap Co., soaps, etc.

OPIMUM-REVENUE INCREASES.—The annual report on the administration of the Opium Department of the Bombay Presidency for 1903-4 shows that the total Imperial revenue from opium during the year was Rs. 1,31,15,903, against Rs. 99,59,110 in the preceding year—a substantial increase of Rs. 31,56,892. The exports to China were more by 6,034½ chests than in the previous year and by 7,838 chests than in 1901-2, and to this is due the large increase in revenue. The increase in exports to China is due to large speculative shipments, induced partly by hopes of a favourable exchange, and partly by a report that the opium-crop in China had partially failed. All Baroda-grown opium imported into the Presidency is exported to China. During the year the area under poppy-cultivation in Baroda was 18,598 acres, against 5,565 acres during the eight months ending March, 1903, and 11,964 acres in the year 1901-2.

Canadian Notes.

(From our own Correspondent.)

NO IMPORTANT TARIFF-CHANGES will be announced by the Finance Minister in his next Budget speech, nor will there be any tariff commission before the 1905-6 Session.

TRADE QUESTIONS IN CANADA.—The fifth annual meeting of the Proprietary Articles Trade Association of Canada, which consists of the leading patent-medicine manufacturers, was held on November 22 at Toronto. There was a large attendance of members from all parts of the Dominion and the United States. Three important questions occupied attention—the operation of the "anti-dumping clause," which has seriously affected the business of American manufacturers; the proposed agreement as to the regulation of prices, which at present exists between the retail and wholesale branches of the drug-trade; and the attack upon proprietary medicines made in the Dominion Senate by the medical profession with the view to either obliterating or seriously hampering the trade. The object of the agreement between the wholesale drug-merchants and the retail merchants' Association is to do away with the cutting of prices, and to this end it is sought to limit the sale of proprietary goods to members of the wholesale Association or associate members. Such associate members may be wholesale grocers, or wholesale general-store dealers; but in each instance the purchaser of the goods must undertake to see that no goods are sold to cutters, and that in the case of cutting an undertaking is given to cut off all supplies from the offender. The working of this agreement is to be controlled by a joint committee consisting of equal numbers of wholesale and retail chemists, and it is sought to secure an equal number of manufacturers to work in conjunction with the joint committee. It is further sought to insure the retailer an advance of at least 50 per cent. on all new proprietary articles which may be brought on the market, and the wholesale houses are to have a trade discount of 15 and 5 per cent., with 5 per cent. for cash, which in turn is to be allowed to the retailer. All retail chemists who are parties to the agreement agree to relinquish all claim to supplies should they cut the prices of the articles. A great deal of difference of opinion exists as to the legality of the agreement; lawyers in all sections of the Dominion declaring it to be within the law, while others state that it is illegal. The Proprietary Articles Trade Association appointed the following committee to discuss the subject with the wholesale and retail druggists: Senator Fulford, Brockville; Mr. Brayley, Montreal; Mr. McKee, Toronto; Mr. D. Watson, Montreal; and Mr. Douglas Smith, Chicago. Negotiations are now in progress to see if the various points of divergence in the opinions of the different branches of the trade cannot be brought into harmony with the proposed agreement. It was resolved to take steps to counteract the efforts to legislate upon the sale of proprietary medicines owing to the action of the medical men.

American Notes.

(From our Correspondent.)

PRESERVATIVES IN FOOD.—An important order has just been issued by the Department of Agriculture to the effect that on and after January 2 all food-products imported will be required to show on the labels of the original packages just what preservatives are used in preparing the food other than the accepted alimentaries, salt, sugar, vinegar, etc. This order is apparently the result of the experiments conducted in Washington of feeding a squad of twelve selected men, commonly called the "Poison Squad," on foods prepared with borax or boric acid.

FREE SAMPLES.—One of the cities in Central New York State has adopted an ordinance making it an offence punishable by a fine to distribute samples of patent medicines in the city. Laws similar to this have been enacted in a considerable number of cities and States during the last few years. It is the custom of some patent-medicine manufacturers to distribute samples in door-yards, on porches, etc., with the result that children eat the pills or the tablets so distributed with considerable prejudice, if not with absolute danger, to their health.

BOOK ON PATENTS.—The "Ladies' Home Journal" is still hammering away at the patent-medicine industry. A third attack is to be found in the current issue of the paper, and is in many respects the most rabid of the series. It discusses the type of patent-medicine proprietor who appeals particularly to women with the promise that their cases shall be kept absolutely confidential, and that they will receive the personal attention of "The Great Doctor" himself. These claims are both shown to be false by the "Journal," and the whole situation is handled "without gloves." Editor Bok is apparently determined to kill the patent-medicine business if he can possibly do so!

South African News.

(From our own Correspondents.)

Note.—"The Chemist and Druggist" is regularly supplied by order to all the members of all the Pharmaceutical Societies in British South Africa, viz.:

South African Pharmaceutical Association.
Pharmaceutical Society of Cape Colony.
Natal Pharmaceutical Society.
Transvaal Pharmaceutical Society.
Rhodesia Pharmaceutical Society.
Northern District Chemists' Association.
Pharmaceutical Society of Orange River Colony.

Cape Colony.

BUSINESS IS QUITE BRISK in the dispensing departments of Kimberley chemists, influenza being prevalent. The weather is bad, writes a Kimberley correspondent on November 14, and there are strong winds and a preponderance of dust.—Mr. W. N. Cooper, who is on the committee of the Northern District Chemists' Association, has been elected captain of the Woodhouse cricket team, and is doing well with the bat.—Mr. G. Broom, manager of the Beaconsfield Pharmacy of N. O. Ruffel, Ltd., has returned from a trip Home, looking very fit.

HOSPITAL DRUG-TENDERS.—At a recent meeting of the Kimberley Chamber of Commerce Mr. Gasson said he had been requested by the Chemists' Association to bring before the Chamber the question of the supply of drugs and medicines to the Kimberley Hospital. For some years past the supply has been obtained from Cape Town, although the local chemists have tendered year after year. The Association suggest that as the hospital is supported mainly from Kimberley, by private subscriptions and paying patients, and a native tax, in addition to which he believed there is a Government grant, the medicines required should be supplied locally, in the same way as other goods were. The chemists who have tendered every year are of opinion that there could not be a great difference in the tenders, but they considered, at all events, that under the circumstances some preference should be given to Kimberley, bearing in mind that they have to pay railway carriage on their goods.

Mr. E. B. Dunkerton (Lennon, Ltd.) supported the request, and referred to the system in vogue at Bloemfontein, where the management will not give a contract for medicines, etc., out of the town. He had not the same knowledge of other parts of Cape Colony, but he believed that elsewhere the same principle is carried out. The Chairman pointed out that the question is one for the Hospital Board, and suggested that Mr. Oliver, as a member of the Board, should bring the matter before them, and point out the fairness of their supporting the local chemists, seeing that the hospital is largely maintained out of local resources. Mr. Oliver promised to carry out the suggestion.

Natal.

DURING the nine months ended September 30, 1904, the imports of drugs and chemicals into the Transvaal amounted to 110,000/., against 144,000/., during the corresponding period of 1903.

NATAL HAS STARTED a new industry in the form of a sulphuric-acid factory, under the name of the Natal Chemical Syndicate. The syndicate is advertising sulphuric acid free from arsenic.

THE SOUTH COAST TRADING CO. is erecting a large building at the pretty little seaside village of Lower Umkomaas. Part of the store will be used as a pharmacy, which will be under qualified management. This will prove a great boon to the village, there being no drug-store within miles.

EARLY CLOSING.—At the meeting of the Durban Town Council, held on October 27, the special committee appointed to consider the regulations dealing with the closing of shops submitted draft by-laws in accordance with the legislative enactment known as Act 29, 1904, giving Town Councils power to fix certain hours for the closing of business-houses. The following clauses are of interest to the drug-trade:

1. All shops within the borough of Durban, not otherwise specially provided for or excepted under these by-laws, shall be closed on week-days not later than the undermentioned hours respectively: All days other than Saturdays at 7 p.m., and on Saturdays at 10 p.m.: Provided, however, that all shops shall be closed from 2 p.m. till 7 p.m. on Saturdays, and provided, further, that the hour for closing restaurants, refreshment-rooms, tea-shops, and eating-houses shall be 10 p.m.

2. On the three business-days immediately preceding Christmas Day the compulsory hour for all shops as above may be extended to 10 p.m. at the option of the shopkeeper.

Exemptions: (a) A pharmaceutical chemist, or chemist and druggist, or registered druggist shall not be liable to any fine under these by-laws or the Act for supplying medicines, drugs, or medical appliances after the hours appointed above for the closing of shops; but this section shall not be deemed to authorise the shop of a pharmaceutical chemist or chemist and druggist to be open after the said hours respectively save so far as may be necessary for the purpose aforesaid.

3. On statutory public holidays, shops in the borough shall be closed for the whole of the day, save and except the shops of chemists and druggists, restaurants, refreshment-rooms, confectioners, tea-shops, eating-houses, fruiterers and greengrocers, fishmongers, butchers, dairymen, barbers, tobacconists, and newsvendors: Provided that, if any such shopkeeper carries on, in any such shop as enumerated in this section, any business of the class usually carried on in shops not so enumerated, then in every such case the provisions of Section 1 of these by-laws, as to the closing of shops, shall apply to such shop.

Any person keeping his shop open after the respective hours specified as above shall be deemed to have contravened these by-laws, and, on conviction thereof, will be liable to a fine not exceeding 5/.

Councillor Champion (who is President of the Natal Pharmacy Board) moved that the draft by-laws be referred to the committee of the whole Council. After considerable opposition this was eventually carried by the Mayor's casting-vote. It will be noticed that nothing has been said about Sunday hours, so it is presumed that chemists will have to conform to Clause 2, Section (a), as provided for evenings during the week.

Orange River Colony.

MR. J. C. KEMSLEY, chemist, Kroonstad, was on November 10 installed chaplain of the Lodge Victoria 837, S.C. Mr. Kemsley has been in business at Kroonstad for a great many years, and is well known in business and Masonic circles.